

## US EPA Carbon Pollution Standard Public Hearings *How To Prepare My Testimony*

As you prepare for the US EPA Carbon Pollution Standard Public Hearing on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, here are a few important tips:

- Time Limit is 5 Minutes: all testimony will be limited to this time-frame
  - **Remember this formula: 1 minute = 150 words**
  - Your 5 minute comments should not exceed 750 words, which is slightly more than one page of text
  - Write your comments down, time yourself, and practice them in front of the mirror and in front of friends and family so that you are familiar with what you want to say.
  
- Speaking Tips:
  - Speak slowly and clearly
  - Make eye contact with members of the audience
  
- Include a few key facts:
  - Sierra Club has sample talking points on the dangers of carbon pollution and the benefits of the new standard (You can find “Expanded Talking Points” here: [http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/communications/talking-points/stop-polluters/default\\_carbon%20pollution.aspx](http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/communications/talking-points/stop-polluters/default_carbon%20pollution.aspx)). Pick one or two facts to frame your personal comments.
  - **Don’t worry about highly technical information.**
  
- Make it personal:
  - The Carbon Pollution Standard will clean up the industries that create the lion’s share of the nation’s carbon pollution and will also help prevent life-threatening air pollutants like dirty soot, toxic mercury, and the smog that triggers asthma attacks. Express your personal concerns about health risks to you and your family/ friends from carbon pollution and other dangerous pollutants from coal plants:
    - Do you live near a coal-fired power plant that emits a lot of pollution? Or in a city with bad air quality? (Check your region’s air quality rating at <http://www.stateoftheair.org/>)
    - Are you an expectant or new mother? Grandparent?
    - Do you or a loved-on suffer from cancer, respiratory illnesses, reproductive problems, neurological damage, immune system damage, or eye irritation, or asthma?
    - Are you a public health professional who serves people suffering from pollution?
    - Are you a teacher, childcare provider, or coach who works with kids who have learning disabilities?
    - Are there mercury advisories on the rivers, lakes or streams where you fish?
  - The Carbon Pollution Standard marks a major milestone for beginning to take action to tackle global climate disruption. Express your personal concerns about how climate disruption affects you and your family/friends:

- Do you live in an area that will be affected by rising sea levels/flooding if climate disruption continues unabated?
    - Do you live in an area that has already been affected by extreme weather associated with climate disruption? (Check your state to see a tally of weather-related disasters since 2006: <http://www.environmentamerica.org/page/ame/map-recent-weather-related-disasters-united-states>)
    - Are you/do you know a local farmer whose crops have suffered as a result of climate disruption?
  - The Carbon Pollution Standard will clean up and modernize the way we power our country, sparking innovation in clean energy technologies that create good American jobs. Express how clean energy technology benefits you and your family/friends:
    - Are you/do you know neighbors/friends who are employed by the clean energy sector in your state?
    - \*\*\* You can again tie these sentiments back to your overall health message – as clean energy will protect you and your family from the dangerous pollutants that coal plants emit\*\*\*
- Visuals:
  - Bring photos or other visual aids to the podium that will help you tell your story
    - Some examples of great visuals from past hearings include:
      - Stacks of petition cards
      - Pictures of polluting coal plants or fish-kills nearby
      - Family portraits
      - Holding your baby with you at the podium, or pushing them in strollers, baby car seats, baby-bjorns. Older children also welcome.
      - Asthma inhalers, medicine bottles, healthcare bills, and medication for air-toxics related illnesses
      - Pictures of extreme weather and the destruction it has caused in your community
      - Pictures of the clean energy potential in your state
- Bring Three Copies of your Written Testimony:
  - **Please bring THREE hard copies of your testimony. You will want to submit one to the official US EPA record, and may also want to give one to a reporter.** Your comments can be typed or hand-written.
- Include your name and contact information:
  - Be sure your testimony includes some form of contact information, but remember, it will become a public document available online.