

**October 9, 2017**

## **U.S. Climate Alliance statement on EPA repeal of Clean Power Plan**

*The United States Climate Alliance issued the following statement on reports that the United States' Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) will repeal the Clean Power Plan:*

"Today's proposal by the U.S. EPA to repeal the Clean Power Plan would take our nation in the wrong direction. As communities around the world recover from devastating hurricanes and wildfires, now is not the time to retreat in the fight against climate change.

"The U.S. Climate Alliance remains committed to meeting the Clean Power Plan targets. While the federal government steps backward, states will press ahead to confront the existential threat of climate change."

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## **Statement from New York Governor, Andrew M. Cuomo**

"The Trump Administration's move to dismantle the Clean Power Plan is a reckless decision that gives power plant operators free reign to do what they will without any concern for our climate. It rolls back the progress we have made to reduce carbon emissions and puts industry interests ahead of our ability to reduce damaging emissions. Climate change is a profound threat to our planet, and it cannot be wished away by denial.

"There is no denial here in New York. While the Trump Administration takes a back a seat to the rest of the world, New York is on track to meet our ambitious target of achieving 50 percent of electricity from renewables by 2030, and we will continue to lead the fight to meet the standards set forth in both the Paris Accord and the Clean Power Plan."

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## **Statement from Washington Governor, Jay Inslee**

"By repealing the Clean Power Plan, President Trump and his EPA administrator are recklessly removing any meaningful, science-based federal restraint on the carbon pollution that power plants are allowed to pump into our atmosphere. The United States Supreme Court has ruled on three separate occasions that the EPA has a responsibility, under the Clean Air Act and other federal laws, to protect American communities from harmful carbon pollution. The Clean Power Plan was constructed to give states the flexibility to choose its own path to a clean energy future, and hold each state responsible for reducing carbon pollution. This decision by the EPA instead rejects science and directly threatens Americans' health and well-being.

"Washington state is already feeling the harmful and costly effects of climate change – in more devastating wildfire seasons, strained water resources, increasingly acidic coastal waters, and more. And we are taking action to respond: at my direction, the Washington State Department of Ecology has implemented the nation's first Clean Air Rule, to limit carbon pollution from our state's largest sources. We are investing in new clean energy technologies – fueling jobs and business growth in an area with tremendous economic

opportunity. We are partnering with other states – through the bipartisan United States Climate Alliance – to fill the void left by the Trump Administration’s total abdication of American leadership.

"This action by the EPA is a setback in the struggle against climate change, but it will not and cannot stop Washington state and our determined allies in the fight against this existential threat."

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### Statement from Colorado Governor, John Hickenlooper

“Here in Colorado, clean energy is not a partisan issue: 95 percent of Coloradans want to see our state move toward a cleaner energy future,” said Governor John Hickenlooper. “Clean energy is an economic engine for our state and for our nation. These are well-paying jobs, most of which cannot be automated or shipped overseas. At the same time, renewable energy can actually lower customers’ energy bills. We have already set greenhouse gas reduction goals that would go beyond those set forth in the Clean Power Plan. We know it’s good for Colorado jobs, for our economy, and for our health.”

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### Statement from Connecticut Governor, Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor, Nancy Wyman, and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Rob Klee

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Rob Klee released the following statements regarding the announcement made by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt that the Trump administration has decided to repeal the Clean Power Plan:

Governor Malloy said, “This announcement is another disappointing policy reversal that will harm Americans. The Trump administration continues to ignore the clear and indisputable scientific fact that humans are responsible for climate change and that the ever increasing severe weather we experience is a direct result. If the federal government refuses to act in the best interest of the people of this nation, then it is incumbent upon state and local leaders to act and work to reverse the harm human activity has done to our planet. Connecticut is a leader in addressing global warming and resiliency by increasing deployment of green energy technologies and promoting energy efficiency. Irrespective of what nonsensical energy and environmental policies come out of Washington, our state will hold firm in its commitment to a clean and protected environment.”

Lt. Governor Wyman said, “Instead of strengthening U.S. energy leadership, President Trump and Secretary Pruitt are working to bring back dangerous policies that jeopardize our economy, human health, and our environment. That decision makes it even more important that states become energy leaders by supporting the renewable energy initiatives, innovation, and entrepreneurship that drives a cleaner, greener economy – it’s right for our residents, our ecosystem, and our economy. Most importantly, it moves smart energy policy forward, not backward.”

Commissioner Klee said, “It is sadly very ironic to see the head of the EPA, a federal agency dedicated to protecting public health as well as natural resources, proclaiming the return of coal – the dirtiest and most

polluting fossil fuel. Burning more coal adds not only to climate changing carbon emissions, but to conventional pollution. This means an increased risk of illness – and even death – for thousands more Americans. This is of concern right here in Connecticut as prevailing wind patterns will carry pollution from coal plants to our south and west into our atmosphere, threatening the health and well-being of our residents.”

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## Statement from Hawaii Governor, David Ige

“The Trump Administration’s irresponsible decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan will have devastating effects on our planet for generations to come.

Climate change is real. Hawai’i recognizes this and is seeing the impacts firsthand with rising tides, a shrinking biodiversity, massive coral bleaching and eroding coastlines. Weather is becoming more extreme, severely impacting our neighbors.

These islands in the Pacific have already taken matters into its own hands by committing to the Paris Accord and hitting key milestones in its ambitious plans to power Hawai’i on 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045. The State of Hawai’i is already lowering emissions while growing jobs and the economy. As the federal government steps down in its leadership role for clean energy, Hawai’i is rising to the occasion and remains committed.”

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## Statement from the Massachusetts Governor’s Office

“The Baker-Polito Administration remains committed to meeting the targets established under the Clean Power Plan and other agreements critical to ensuring the Commonwealth remains a national leader in securing a clean energy future and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Governor Baker’s climate change executive order, bipartisan energy legislation and continued efforts to meet state and regional carbon emissions reduction targets are all examples of Massachusetts’ commitment to lead on combatting climate change and addressing resiliency.” – *Peter Lorenz, EEA Communications Director*

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## Statements from Minnesota Governor, Mark Dayton, and Lt. Governor, Tina Smith

Governor Dayton: “The Trump Administration’s constant assault on our environment will not diminish Minnesotans’ resolve to build a vibrant clean energy economy. We will not allow President Trump to stand in the way, as we do everything in our power to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions that threaten our health and our environment. In the upcoming 2018 Session, I will again urge the Legislature to adopt the ‘50 by 30’ Renewable Energy Standard, which Lt. Governor Smith and legislators from both parties have championed. We must do more to ensure our children and grandchildren inherit a better future, and an even stronger clean energy economy.”

Lt. Governor Smith: “President Trump’s decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan is bad for our environment, our health, and our economy. This decision won’t change the fact that wind, and increasingly solar energy, cost less than coal. In Minnesota, clean energy already supports more than 57,000 jobs, with growth that outpaces the rest of our state’s economy. Our administration remains committed to advancing clean energy policies that are good for the planet and good for our economy. Next session, we will continue to advocate for the bipartisan ‘50 by 30’ Renewable Energy Standard, to move Minnesota to 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.”

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## Statement from Oregon Governor, Kate Brown

“I am deeply disappointed in the repeal of the Clean Power Plan rule. Oregon will not turn its back on the environment or the thousands of jobs that have been created through the clean energy industry. Oregon was the first state in the nation to adopt a coal-to-clean law and will continue to be a leader in clean energy. That’s why we’re stepping up, as the federal government steps down from its leadership role in tackling climate change.”

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The [United States Climate Alliance](#) is a bipartisan coalition of 14 states and Puerto Rico who are committed to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, and who are united in confidence that coordinated state action can ensure that the U.S. continues to contribute to the global effort to address climate change.

Alliance states are leading the country in combatting climate change through policies that encourage investment in clean energy, energy efficiency and climate resilience. Last month the Alliance released a [report](#) demonstrating that its members are collectively on track to meet and possibly exceed their portion of the U.S.’ commitment under the Paris Agreement.

According to the report, the Alliance members together achieved a 15 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, between 2005 and 2015 alone, and have attracted nearly \$100 billion in renewable energy investments in their states, since 2011. Today, Alliance states are home to 1.3 million clean energy jobs, account for 40 percent of U.S. GDP, and outpace the rest of the country in economic growth.