

**Diana Van Vleet's Testimony for EPA Hearing on Repeal of Greenhouse Gas (GHG)
Standards for Fossil Fuel-fired Electric Generating Units (EGUs)
As Prepared for Delivery**

Hello, my name is Diana Van Vleet, and I am the Director of Nationwide Clean Air Advocacy at the American Lung Association. I live in Purcellville, Virginia. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak today. I am here today to speak in opposition to the proposal to repeal EPA's Clean Air Act authority to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants, along with all remaining greenhouse gas standards for power plants not previously repealed.

Today you will hear from some of my colleagues and others about why EPA has the well-established legal authority, and the responsibility, to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants. I am sure you will also hear about how reducing greenhouse gases from power plants will dramatically reduce the United States', and the world's, greenhouse gas emissions. And you will also no doubt hear that there is no question that greenhouse gas emissions cause climate change – a topic that we should no longer need to spend any time on. But I really want to shed light on the climate and health impacts from my neck of the woods. Because climate change is already harming health here in Loudoun County, Virginia, as it is in every county in the United States.

Loudoun County, Virginia was thought to be largely immune from most kinds of extreme weather. I am lucky to live in an area that has historically not really experienced flooding or hurricanes, wildfires, etc. I think that that's a major reason why Mount Weather, a major civilian command and continuity-of-government facility operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was established not far from where I live.

But in recent years, summers have become awful. Not just unpleasant, but scary. It is incredibly hot – so hot that my children can't go out to play most summer days. My sister had a very scary experience with heat stroke this summer. We are experiencing more bad air quality days due to wildfire smoke. In addition to the heat and bad air quality, the ticks in Loudoun County are popping up everywhere. I picked multiple deer ticks, which carry Lyme Disease, and a lone star tick, which carries Alpha Gal disease, off of myself and my children this summer, and almost everyone in my large family had at least one tick this year. This is terrifying, and one of these ticks could have devastating impacts on an individual's health. Because of the ticks this summer, I did not let my children play in the woods, which was one of the things I loved most growing up here.

People are catching on. These changes are new, and different. Family members have stopped saying "it's just a bad year," and people in my community are starting to connect the dots. Our stories here are a just tiny snapshot of what is going on more broadly.

And it isn't getting better, not without sweeping action. As a mother of two, soon to be three, the future that my children will live in absolutely terrifies me.

No matter who you are, no matter where you live, climate change will impact your life. And your health. And yet, EPA once again did not conduct analysis on what the health impacts of this proposal would be, quantifying only compliance cost savings.

I implore you to withdraw this proposal to repeal EPA's Clean Air Act authority to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants.