



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Peter F. Kilmartin, Attorney General

August 3, 2015

Gina McCarthy, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

As Attorney General of Rhode Island, I write in strong support of the final Clean Power Plan rules issued by the Administration today that will, for the first time, limit the emissions of carbon dioxide and other climate change pollution from new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants under section 111 of the Clean Air Act. We are in the process of reviewing the rules but fully anticipate standing with EPA and the Attorneys General of New York, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, the District of Columbia, and the City of New York to defend these necessary emission standards when they are inevitably challenged in court.

The power plant rules issued today are the product of an unprecedented effort by EPA to solicit public input, including from states, cities, nonprofit organizations, and industry. They also mark the culmination of a decade-long effort by our states in advocating for cutting climate change pollution from power plants – the single largest U.S. source of these emissions. Significant reductions in these emissions must occur to prevent increases in the frequency, magnitude and scale of the adverse impacts of climate change – including more heat-related deaths and illnesses; higher smog levels, increasing the rate of asthma, pneumonia and bronchitis; extreme weather, including storms, floods and droughts; threats to our food production, agriculture and forest productivity; and threats to our energy, transportation and water resource infrastructure.

The power plant rules will result in dramatic reductions in current and future emissions of climate change pollution. The limits on emissions from existing power plants alone are expected to eliminate 870 million tons of greenhouse gases by 2030, equivalent to the annual emissions of about 160 million cars. As such the rule will play an essential role in our efforts to protect our environment and public health, safety, and welfare from the harms of unmitigated climate change.

The rules are also firmly grounded in the law. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of climate change pollution from new and existing power plants. Furthermore, the rules set reasonable limits on these sources as a result of a multi-year stakeholder process that

drew heavily on strategies states have used to successfully cut power plant emissions while growing our economies.

In closing, I thank you, your Agency, and the Administration for your finalizing these critical rules, as well as your continued leadership in addressing climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter F. Kilmartin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Peter F. Kilmartin
Attorney General