

Charlotte Citizen's Hearing

On EPA's Carbon Proposal

Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m.

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Charlotte, North Carolina

APPEARANCES:

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1 MS. BLOTNICK: Good evening, everyone.
2 Let's go ahead and get started. I'm June
3 Blotnick and I'm the director of Clean Air Carolina
4 and I'll be your moderator tonight. I want to thank
5 each of you for coming out tonight to this public
6 hearing on the EPA's new carbon rule. I also want to
7 thank Reverend John Claiborne, the pastor here, and
8 his staff for allowing us to use this space. There is
9 another hearing here tomorrow night, some of you may
10 have heard about, about redistricting, and the
11 newspaper had the date wrong, so we may get some
12 stragglers about ten to 7:00 for that hearing, so I'll
13 ask them to stay, but Kelly -- you know, in the back
14 there, y'all should just check if we get some people
15 that late if they're here for that other one.

16 I also want to thank our special
17 guests. We have asked several people from the
18 community -- from the faith community, medical
19 community and science community -- to speak first and
20 so I want to thank them for coming. And I also want
21 to thank Brittany, over here in the orange -- Brittany
22 Iery, with North Carolina Conservation Network -- who
23 many of you may know and get their e-mails. And
24 Brittany, as well as the Sierra Club, Bill Gupton, is
25 here. And a number of organizations have been

1 organizing these hearings around the state. So this
2 is our first one in the state, Charlotte, then we've
3 got Asheville and Durham.

4 So I want to thank Brittany for coming
5 in. That whole coalition of groups has paid for the
6 expenses of a stenographer. This is Shannon,
7 everybody. And Shannon will be typing what you say
8 tonight and those -- she does a great job. She's with
9 Adams and Holt and they reported or recorded the
10 hearing that we did at Mayfield Memorial Baptist last
11 summer, so she's good at this. So we want to thank
12 the coalition for covering those expenses. I want to
13 say a few words just about some background on the EPA
14 rule and go over some logistics.

15 So, we're here tonight because on
16 December 15th, 2009, which is almost four years ago,
17 the EPA administrator found that the current and
18 projected concentrations of greenhouse gases endanger
19 the public health and welfare of current and future
20 generations. So that was back in '09. We're also
21 here tonight because the power sector, with its
22 dependence on oil, coal and natural gas, is the
23 largest source of carbon emissions in the country
24 fueling climate instability.

25 We know that North Carolina is a big

1 player when it comes to carbon emissions. In 2011,
2 power plants and major industrial facilities in North
3 Carolina emitted over 70 million metric tons of CO2.
4 I just can't fathom 70 million tons of gas. That's a
5 whole lot of CO2 so North Carolina is a big player on
6 this issue. So the EPA needs to hear from North
7 Carolinians about it.

8 In June of last year, some of you may
9 have been at the hearing at Mayfield Memorial Baptist
10 Church, and I know Reverend McClain was. Anybody else
11 at that meeting, besides me, Bill Gupton, Monica with
12 Green Peace was there, Davis Robinson. So, at that
13 time, the EPA had a proposed rule on regulating carbon
14 from power plants. They received over two and a half
15 million comments during that time and so what they did
16 is rewrite the rule. So if you submitted comments
17 back then, they're no good because they've rescinded
18 that rule, so you have to make them all over again.
19 So that's why we're here tonight. But, I just wanted
20 you to know a little bit about that -- that there was
21 a rule, they received so much feedback, they wrote a
22 new rule, they are rescinding the old one. If you
23 commented back in June of 2012, you need to do it
24 again.

25 If you don't want to speak tonight, we

1 do have several ways for you to still make comments to
2 the EPA. This is a card that if you want to write
3 something tonight, we will collect it and you can
4 leave it at the back at the table and we will mail it
5 for you. This is to the EPA. Brittany brought cards
6 that will go directly to the president, because even
7 though the EPA gets the comments and they come up with
8 their idea what it should look like, it ultimately
9 lands on the president's desk. So those are a couple
10 of ways you can comment if you don't speak tonight.

11 We do have a handout that everybody
12 should have gotten. If you go to the EPA.gov, they
13 have several fact sheets on this carbon rule. What I
14 printed out for you was the technical fact sheet,
15 details about the proposal. So on this fact sheet,
16 you can really see the specifics of how many tons of
17 CO2 they are proposing to hold power plants to. So
18 that handout is there.

19 Next summer, there will be a
20 rule -- the rule tonight that we're speaking about is
21 for new power plants. Next summer, there will be
22 another rule put out that we can comment on for
23 existing power plants. But, feel free to talk about
24 either one tonight to let the EPA know how you feel.

25 Okay. So tonight is an opportunity to

1 make your voice heard about the proposed rule, the
2 U.S. energy industry, climate change, or anything else
3 you want the EPA to know as they consider this very
4 first ever historical carbon rule.

5 A few logistics -- Do we have any other
6 speakers, Rebecca, that signed up?

7 Rebecca: Just the list that you have.

8 MS. BLOTNICK: Okay. So, that's good, in a
9 way, because we don't need to limit the speakers to
10 three minutes so we have plenty of time. And we'll
11 certainly -- our guests, they can talk a lot longer.
12 So Brittany was going to be our timekeeper, but she
13 may not have to be. So that's good. She's there if
14 we need her.

15 Does anybody object -- We've got
16 Leslie, who is our new employee at Clean Air Carolina,
17 with her camera roaming around. Does anybody object
18 to having their picture taken?

19 (WHEREUPON there was no response.)

20 MS. BLOTNICK: We want to publicize what
21 we're doing.

22 Do we have any members of the press
23 here?

24 (WHEREUPON there was no response.)

25 MS. BLOTNICK: We tried. But, the other

1 thing -- we are going to turn it over to Brittany to
2 say something about all you Tweeters out there. Do we
3 have anybody that uses Twitter?

4 MS. IERY: So, normally at these hearings,
5 you would hear people say turn your phones off, but we
6 would love for you to maybe turn them down, but keep
7 them on and live Tweet and tag @cleanairnc, which is
8 Clean Air Carolina's Twitter handle, and then add the
9 hashtag #cutcarboncharlotte to the end of your tweets,
10 we can hopefully get a good feed of awesome stuff that
11 you guys are hearing and think the world of Twitter
12 and elsewhere should hear. So look there, if you guys
13 would like to join in the social media site. Thank
14 you, guys.

15 MS. BLOTNICK: Great. All right. So we're
16 going to go ahead and hear -- oh, if you didn't see
17 where the bathroom sign was, it's right around the
18 corner. It's unisex. So, that's the bathroom, if you
19 need it. And when you come up to speak, if you'll
20 just state your name and address for the record, that
21 way Shannon can get your comments and she'll know who
22 said them.

23 We're going to start with our -- We're
24 going to start with our guest speakers. Thank you.
25 We will start with Nancy, because Nancy has to leave a