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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MS. BLOTNICK: Good evening, everyone.

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

I also want to thank our special guests. We have asked several people from the community -- from the faith community, medical community and science community -- to speak first and so I want to thank them for coming. And I also want to thank Brittany, over here in the orange -- Brittany Iery, with North Carolina Conservation Network -- who many of you may know and get their e-mails. And Brittany, as well as the Sierra Club, Bill Gupton, is here. And a number of organizations have been
organizing these hearings around the state. So this
is our first one in the state, Charlotte, then we've
got Asheville and Durham.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Okay. So tonight is an opportunity to
make your voice heard about the proposed rule, the
U.S. energy industry, climate change, or anything else
you want the EPA to know as they consider this very
first ever historical carbon rule.

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

Rebecca: Just the list that you have.

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

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

(WHEREUPON there was no response.)

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

Do we have any members of the press
here?

(WHEREUPON there was no response.)

MS. BLOTNICK: We tried. But, the other
thing -- we are going to turn it over to Brittany to
say something about all you Tweeters out there. Do we
have anybody that uses Twitter?

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

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

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