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**Testimony of Rachel Martin Golman**

May 27, 2014

Pittsburgh, PA

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2014 JUN -2 PM 3:11

Hello, my name is Rachel Martin Golman and I reside in the City of Pittsburgh. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

I am here to ask the DEP to protect the health of sensitive populations – children, the elderly, people with respiratory problems, and others by simply requiring coal plants to operate the equipment that most of them already have.

The RACT standards for NOx as proposed by the DEP would set pollution limits for coal-fired power plants that average 40% higher than what plants are already emitting, and up to 9 times higher than what they should be able to achieve.

Here in Allegheny County, there are over 24,000 children with asthma. This includes the children of many of my friends who last year were told to stay inside 15 days of the year, with smog pollution being a significant contributor to these air quality action days. For 15 days of these kids' summer vacations, it was dangerous for them play outside, as every child should have the right to do.

I had asthma as a child. I know the fear of gasping for air, and I don't want anyone to have to experience that, especially not a child.

Letting coal plants off the hook for their pollution, when there are readily available controls that could help reduce days of school and work missed, reduce emergency room visits, decrease heart attacks, and, literally save lives, is unconscionable. What kind of cost-benefit analysis would give coal plants a little bump to their profits by allowing them to not run or not maintain equipment they already have when the result of this will be kids spending their summers in an emergency room struggling to breathe or even people losing their lives? One can only surmise that Governor Corbett and the DEP place a very low value on a person's life and well-being.

I ask that you demonstrate that you do consider people's lives and well-being more important than a quick buck for Big Coal. Please make the following changes to the RACT requirement for NOx emissions:

- Require that coal plants use the equipment that most of them already have installed.
- Require each coal plant to be held accountable for reducing its pollution instead of allowing companies to group all of their plants together.
- Measured smog on a short-term basis in accordance with the Clean Air Act.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and I hope that you will do the right thing for Pennsylvania families.