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Testimony on Proposed Rulemaking

Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOx and VOCs

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610-247-2014

Good afternoon, my name is Taylor Elliott-DelBuono and I currently reside at 375 Meyran Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213. I am speaking today because I'm concerned about the proposed plan regarding Pennsylvania's coal-fired power plants and I am in favor of stronger controls on the emissions from these plants. From my understanding, this proposal would increase the allowable levels of NOx emitted from the plants which would in turn increase the amounts of smog in our air.

Now if someone told me this, let's say 5 years ago, my reaction would have been very different. I probably would have shrugged it off, and figured our politicians would look out for us and handle everything. But this plan isn't looking out for the public, it's giving the coal plants even more leeway, and therefore going to make Pennsylvania's smog problem even worse.

Now that I have a better understanding of the logistics of this issue, I can feel comfortable saying that I don't feel this plan is strict enough. Smog is a very harmful mixture of pollutants. Smog attacks the respiratory system by reducing its overall function, including its ability to fight infections. Scientists have agreed that those who are more susceptible to smog and other air pollutants are asthmatics, people with chronic respiratory or heart diseases, the elderly, and children. Children, the future of our planet. Children's lungs aren't fully yet developed, and exposure to smog puts them at a greater risk for long term damage.

Most of the coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania *already* have the technology installed to reduce their emitted volumes of NOx. So let's use this technology. I am aware that doing this will cost money; everything is always about the money. But let's stop worrying about the money and shift our focus to the health of our society and what decisions benefit them.

You need to look out for the public and for the person I was 5 years ago. You need to look out for the children who are living a carefree childhood, blissfully unaware of the pollution they're breathing in and what it could do to them. This proposed plan needs to be stricter and needs to value the public's health over what's *financially* best for the coal companies.

Thank you for your time.