

My name is Michelle DePass. I am the Dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy; Tishman Professor of Environmental Policy and Management; and Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center here at The New School.

I strongly disagree with the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan. I oppose this decision as a former local and state employee, as an environmental and climate justice leader, as a former Assistant Administrator at the US EPA, and as a parent and educator.

The choice to repeal this plan reflects strategic negligence on the part of the EPA, eliminating what would be one of the most significant actions taken to address the impacts of carbon pollution in the United States. Without the Clean Power Plan, there will be no rules in effect to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants nationwide.

The EPA's 2009 Endangerment Finding, rules that Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gasses are a danger to human health and the environment. In 2014, the Supreme Court upheld the ruling that it is the EPA's responsibility to curb greenhouse gas pollution and to use the Clean Air Act to issue "performance standards," limiting carbon pollution from stationary sources. Repealing the

Clean Power Plan contradicts the legally affirmed duty and purpose of the EPA, and will have disastrous impacts on the climate and public health.

The EPA's regulatory impact analysis indicates that if the Clean Power Plan is enforced, by 2030 it will prevent 300,000 missed days of work and school, 1,700 non-fatal heart attacks, 90,000 asthma attacks in children, and 3,600 premature deaths. Without the Clean Power Plan, huge numbers of American women, men, and children will be impacted. Lives will be lost.

Climate change is a clear and present danger to this nation. Sea levels are rising along all coasts, and hurricanes in recent years have shown that the United States lacks the financial infrastructure to ethically, and fully recover from these increasingly frequent and violent storms.

The Trump Administration's own National Climate Assessment Report states, "human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century." This move to repeal the Clean Power Plan shows a blatant disregard for reality.

In addition, as the effects of climate change worsen, the federal government has no plans to increase disaster resilience and preparedness, or to improve and

expedite disaster recovery. This double whammy will impact New Yorkers' health and well-being in very deep ways.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused more than \$19 billion in damage and lost economic activity in New York City and put New Yorkers at immediate risk of hypothermia, increased flu transmission, and exposure to contaminated water. Meanwhile hospitals lost power, some New Yorkers were unable to access routine healthcare and essential medications for chronic illnesses, and still more suffered from mental health effects. Five years later, we have not fully recovered from the storm, and we are not impervious to the future storms we will face.

As was the case with Sandy, the effects of climate change impacts will be most strongly felt by low-income communities and communities of color that are already overburdened with social and environmental injustices. Power plants historically have been located in low-income communities of color, contributing to climate change and poisoning those communities with toxic and harmful co-pollutants like sulphur dioxide and particulate matter.

My own institution seeks to be a part of the solution. The New School's Climate Action Plan is guided by a goal to be carbon neutral by 2040, and we have a number of energy-saving and efficiency-boosting projects under way. However, given the location of the university, we have limited options to generate our own

electricity on-site, thus we cannot realistically meet our long-term carbon goals without New York City achieving a cleaner, more renewable grid. Abandoning the Clean Power Plan moves us in the wrong direction.

A regressive agenda on climate change also demotes the United States on the world stage. The federal government is currently ignoring the inevitable, global shift to renewable energy. Without investing in renewable energy domestically we are missing opportunities to lead the global energy transition.

As a professional and a community member who has worked for decades to bring much needed protection to the American people and my home town of New York City, I adamantly oppose the decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

Instead of taking a "do nothing" approach to addressing climate change, the EPA should strive to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment by enforcing the Clean Power Plan and going a step further to develop strategies to ensure justice and equity in its implementation.

Thank you.