

EPA Clean Power Plan Hearing Testimony
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In 1961 President John F. Kennedy gave a speech to Congress announcing his goal of putting a man on the moon. Eight years later, it was done.

The EPA's proposed Clean Power plan gives states 2-3 years to submit emissions reduction plans, and **15** years to implement them. 15 years.

15 more years of pollution is not something our climate can afford. This is not about the environment versus the economy. But that is exactly what rich industry folk want you to think: they want to divide and conquer the American public. Every air-breathing water-drinking person in this room is an environmentalist. No one should have to choose between having a job to feed their family and clean air so that their children can play outside without getting asthma or cancer. So we should all be asking ourselves why we continue to be presented with false choices.

These power plant rules, while a step in the right direction, are deplorably weak. This administration is promoting false solutions like clean coal, nuclear, and not-so-natural gas when the right solutions like wind and solar are literally staring us in the face.

Our country's addiction to fossil fuels is more than an environmental issue. It is a workers issue, a public health issue, a democracy issue, and a civil rights issue.

And if fossil fuels are in fact so problematic, what exactly is stopping America from having a more ambitious energy plan?

How come we can put a man on the moon in eight years but can't start shifting to clean energy like solar and wind by quarter century?

How is it that in this rich country some of us are told our only choice is between polluting jobs or no jobs? That we must choose between dangerous sources of energy and affordable energy bills at the end of the month? That we must choose between using our land to grow food on and using our land to grow fuel on? That we must choose between "energy security" and climate security?

I'll tell you why in two words: industry profits.

In this great country of opportunity and innovation, it is a shame that our leaders are failing to create the kind of jobs that Americans are entitled to, and to invest in energy sources that are clean and renewable and affordable, and that our country needs to harness in order to remain competitive in the global market.

I support regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, but we need to make sure that these rules are significantly improved. Thank you.