

Submitting a Public Comment

Administration required to get public feedback on any proposed regulations within a certain timeframe, usually 60 or 90 days

Examples:

- Trump Administration seeking to deny legal permanent residency status (green cards) and certain types of visas to immigrants and their family members who have turned to or who are deemed likely to turn to government food, housing and healthcare assistance
- Trump Administration proposing a freeze on improving fuel efficiency standards for cars
- Biden Administration proposing a suite of regulations to improve air quality and reduce carbon and methane emissions

Ways to Weigh in on Proposed Regulations

- Sign onto a group comment
- Submit a personal comment to the government agency
They need to be unique
The Justice Team provides sample talking points and avenue for sending them to the agency

EXAMPLES

1. Touching on professional experience

As a “house mother” for black teenage girls, I accompanied them to the emergency room in the middle of the night gasping for breath as they had an asthma attack. Each experience was extremely frightening to them. As they grew, this disease most likely diminished their quality of life, preventing them from gainful work and a living wage. Later as a nurse I cared for people hospitalized with heart disease, heart attacks, strokes, COPD, Parkinson’s disease and dementia, all of which are negatively affected by the presence of soot in the air.

The EPA proposed soot standard does not do enough to counteract the damage to people’s health!

We all have a right to breathe clean air!

EXAMPLES

2. Sharing personal experience

I was an early adopter of shares of solar power from my utility company. Initially, I paid more to receive solar energy; with the change in the market, I now get a credit for my solar shares. I'm spending less on electricity and using a renewable form of energy. Limiting emissions from power plants not only leads to cleaner air, it is an incentive to produce more renewable electricity, which benefits us all. I support the strongest possible limits on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants that burn fossil fuels, including those that burn coal and natural gas.

EXAMPLES

3. Building on Justice Team talking points

As we experience a summer like no other, we are astounded that the strongest possible limits have not been placed on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning power plants. We know that the ill effects of the abuse of our resources has led to untold misery especially those who disproportionately experience premature deaths, hospital visits and asthma attacks – predominantly those who have fewer options based on their economic disadvantage.

As a member of a catholic religious women's congregation, I beg you to strengthen even further the rules you have by

- o Covering more existing gas-fired power plants
- o relying more on absolute emission reductions than on technology like carbon capture and storage that doesn't keep other pollutants out of communities
- o Setting accelerated compliance timelines that meet the urgency of the moment
- o Conducting meaningful and sustained consultation with communities that have experienced the most harm from the fossil fuel economy, to ensure implementing the regulations doesn't exacerbate environmental injustice.