



**Testimony of Khari Mosley, Regional Program Manager, BlueGreen Alliance
Public Hearing on EPA's Clean Power Plan
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
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Hello, my name is Khari Mosely and I'm the Regional Program Manager for the BlueGreen Alliance here in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Back in 2006, the BlueGreen Alliance was formed by the United Steelworkers (USW) and the Sierra Club. But now, we are a partnership of some of America's largest unions and most influential environmental organizations. Nationwide, we unite nearly 16 million members and supporters to build a cleaner, fairer and more competitive American economy.

The Clean Power Plan, which will put the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, is a significant step forward to tackle the impacts of climate change. Doing this right will ensure cleaner air, reliable power, and a stable economy—where jobs are both created and protected.

America's workers are the key to getting this right. We will responsibly reduce our nation's carbon pollution, upgrade our infrastructure, and expand clean energy and energy-efficient technologies.

Pennsylvania is dealing with more severe extreme weather events and this plan will help address that in the long-term, for generations to come. The facts about how climate change is already affecting us today, speak for themselves.

Extreme temperature swings related to climate change are causing more pot-holes on roads, higher than average rainfall is testing the limits of dams and levees, and stronger and stronger winds are leaving our electric grid vulnerable to more power outages than I've ever seen in my lifetime. In fact, the number of weather-related blackouts has doubled [since 2003](#).

This is due to the fact that Pennsylvania has had 13 major disaster declarations in [just 10 years](#) from severe storms, including Hurricanes Irene and Sandy and Tropical Storm Lee. These disasters have resulted in the need for hundreds of millions of dollars in public assistance to support recovery and rebuilding efforts.

We must choose to take full advantage of all of the opportunities presented to us through the Clean Power Plan, such as building on the success of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that's making strides toward generating [18 percent](#) of this state's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2021.

While progress on the Lake Erie wind project is taking longer than any of us would like, we're optimistic that with the leadership of Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation, a nonprofit known as [LEED Co.](#), and other stakeholders, offshore wind will grow to become a part of our state's energy portfolio.

Whether it be through expanding renewable energy or other methods, it's important to emphasize that our state and local lawmakers must engage Pennsylvanians—especially workers who may be impacted—as they draft the state's blueprint to meet the Clean Power Plan standards.

We are committed to making sure the workers impacted by the decisions their companies make have a say in their own future, as many of these decisions aren't about EPA rules but are instead about the bottom line.

That's why we support efforts to spur economic development in cities and regions being impacted. We will not leave workers behind as we transition to cleaner, more efficient energy.

We're making sure workers in Pennsylvania have their voice heard. Doing this the right way will protect existing jobs, while reducing emissions, growing new, family-sustaining jobs in clean energy and energy efficiency, and encouraging investment to jumpstart new technologies.

We can choose to create and maintain middle-class jobs, revitalize our nation's manufacturing sector, and address climate change. But, only if we make sure the voices of working people are front-and-center as the Clean Power Plan moves forward.

Thank you.