

Testimony before EPA Listening Session on Carbon Pollution Standards for Existing Power Plants

Corey Shott

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Hello. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Corey Shott. I am the senior climate policy representative for the National Wildlife Federation and I am here today to speak in favor of EPA's plans to crack down on carbon pollution from existing power plants.

I, along with millions of conservation advocates across the country, am alarmed by what the future holds for our nation's people, treasured wildlife and the natural resources upon which we all depend if we don't act now to address climate change.

I am proud to call myself a native of the great state of Montana where I grew up among the majestic Rocky Mountains and crisp, cool waters of the Clark Fork River. I was lucky enough to spend my summers among the trails of Glacier National Park. The ski hills of Snowbowl and Big Mountain were my winter playground. It is with this on my mind that I speak today to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to take bold, aggressive steps to reduce carbon pollution that fuels climate change threatening the treasured landscapes that I know and love.

The historic glaciers of Glacier National Park will be gone by 2030 due to rising global temperatures. Bark beetle is ravaging forests like never before. Communities and habitats are threatened by hotter, drier fire seasons and more unpredictable and variable snowpack. Fish and wildlife, core to the state's identity and heritage, are under threat from shifting landscapes and warming waters. It is past time we change course and reshape our energy future that is not dependent on climate altering pollution.

I am here to urge EPA to put in place a bold plan that will reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants by at least 25% below today's levels by 2020 to help ensure the U.S. is successful in meeting our international climate commitments. EPA should build upon the work already in done in states and regions across the country to reduce pollution. In addition, the Agency should work with states to put in place plans that will encourage more renewable energy and energy efficiency development, rather than incentivizing expansion of other fossil fuels like natural gas that furthers our dependence on carbon-polluting fuels. Now is the time to set forward a bold energy vision for this country using the tools we have at our disposal.

I commend President Obama and Administrator McCarthy for showing leadership on addressing climate change by moving forward with setting standards for carbon pollution from existing power plants. I look forward to a day when America is no longer bound to dirty fossil fuel energy but powered by clean, renewable energy.