



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

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October 31, 2017

E. Scott Pruitt, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460
Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov

Re: Request for Public Hearings on Proposed Repeal of the Clean Power Plan

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

Pursuant to your Federal Register Notice on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan, 82 Fed. Reg. 48,035 (Oct. 16, 2017), I respectfully request that you hold a public hearing in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Conducting a hearing in Hampton Roads will enable you to hear first-hand from our residents that already experience the serious impacts of climate change as part of their daily lives.

The Hampton Roads area has seen the highest rates of sea level rise along the East Coast. Ordinary rain events now cause flooding in the streets of Norfolk, including large connector streets going underwater, impacting homeowners' access on a regular basis.¹ Hampton Roads is home to a significant number of military installations potentially impacted. As an example, Naval Station Norfolk, the largest navy base in the world, is currently replacing 14 piers due to sea level rise, at a cost of \$35-40 million per pier.² The city of Norfolk alone will need at least \$1 billion in the coming decades to replace current infrastructure and keep water out of the city's homes and businesses.³ Costs from three feet of sea-level rise in the Hampton Roads region are expected to range between \$12 billion and \$87 billion.⁴

¹ See, for instance: <http://wavy.com/2016/09/21/rain-causes-norfolk-streets-and-neighborhoods-to-flood/>

² Center for Sea Level Rise, Old Dominion University, "Center For Sea Level Rise" (2017). *Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project: Website*. 1, available at http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=hripp_website

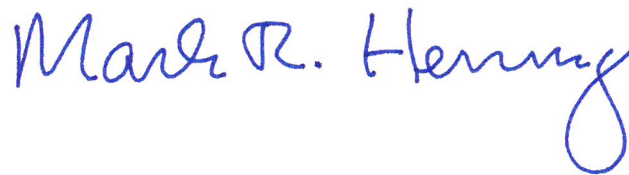
³ Id.

⁴ Id.

Demonstrating an understanding of these and other impacts, our electric utilities have shifted away from carbon intensive generation, due in part to a recognition that reducing carbon emissions is necessary. Additionally, Virginia has seen a dramatic increase in the number of solar facilities established in the state.

I was proud to stand with other states and cities to defend the Clean Power Plan in federal court. Carbon pollution is a serious threat to our natural environment, to our public health, and to our way of life. I urge you to conduct a hearing in Hampton Roads so that you can hear firsthand from Virginians that live with climate change as part of your information gathering before you take the unnecessary and harmful step of repealing the Clean Power Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Herring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Mark R. Herring
Attorney General

Cc: Peter Tsirigotis
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