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December 15, 2015

North Dakota Department of Health  
Division of Air Quality  
918 E Divide Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

Healthy air is essential to life. That is why the American Lung Association in North Dakota supports the Clean Power Plan developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the authority of the Clean Air Act.

The Clean Power Plan establishes the first national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants. We long ago set limits that protect public health by reducing soot and other toxic emissions; however until now there were no limits on carbon emissions from existing power plants, the nation's largest source of carbon emissions.

The recent climate agreement in Paris shows that the world takes the threat of climate change seriously, and we believe that North Dakota can and should do its part to reduce carbon emissions. A changing climate can effect human health in many ways: through degraded air quality, wildfires, drought, heat waves and more.

The EPA estimates that the health benefits of fully implementing the Clean Power Plan in 2030 include preventing up to 3,600 premature deaths, preventing 90,000 asthma attacks and avoiding 300,000 days missed from work and school each year.

We understand that some opponents of the Clean Power Plan have cited the state's good scores in the annual American Lung Association State of the Air Report as evidence the Clean Power Plan is not needed or is too harsh on North Dakota. This is misleading, because the State of the Air Report does not measure carbon emissions, the main focus of the Clean Power Plan, and never has.

As a public health charity, we have an obligation to protect children, older adults and others who are especially vulnerable due to asthma or other chronic lung diseases. We believe this plan will help North Dakotans live longer and healthier lives; keep kids with asthma out of the hospital; and help keep adults, athletes and outdoor workers breathing easier.

We also believe that this plan will spur investment in clean energy technologies, creating new jobs in North Dakota while ensuring that our electrical power remains affordable and reliable.

*Please remember the American Lung Association in your will or trust.*

The evidence is now clear that climate change and carbon pollution threaten the health of millions of Americans. The American Lung Association in North Dakota will support the Clean Power Plan and we urge the state Department of Health to develop a statewide plan that maximizes health benefits while meeting our state target goals of reducing carbon emissions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Gottier Fena". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Penny Gottier Fena  
Chief Mission Officer  
American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest