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EPA Region 8 Office

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Public Hearing Testimony

EPA Methane Rollback Hearing

Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0483, FRL-9984-38-OAR

My name is Keely Scheffler. I’m an intern with the Sierra Club in New Mexico while I study Journalism and Political Science and I’m scared.

I grew up right here in Colorado, being shuffled into my Dad’s Jeep Grand Cherokee nearly every weekend along with my brothers for yet another escapade through our most breathtaking mountain trails.

When I think of home, I think of the blinding smile on my Dads face as he shared his love for the simplicity of nature and the meaning of it with us. I was taught from a very young age how many lessons the Earth has to teach and I learned that our relationship with it should and must always be rooted in respect. The earth provides us with a home, and we all must learn to respect that and to value that.

That’s why I’m scared. Because it seems as though not nearly enough people have learned these same lessons and now I’m worried that this place I call home, that we call home, won’t be around to teach these lessons to generations who have yet to have the privilege of experiencing the world as I have.

I am beyond terrified that ignorance will keep the children of tomorrow from experiencing the unspeakable beauty and wisdom I was so fortunate to feel in my bones and keep in my heart.

At this point, it is no longer a discussion of what if, but of when. I believe that we all in fact understand that rolling back any protections from methane and any other vicious pollutants will very clearly not only reverse any rehabilitation we’ve done for our planet, but will essentially devastate us for generations to come.

I can give you statistics of methane being about 86% more potent and harmful than other greenhouse gasses, and I can tell you about the very serious health risks these gasses have and will continue to impose on our communities.

But what I want you picture is a future in which we all get to say we were part of revolutionizing not only how we power our lives, but also how we empower lives. Each of us have the power to be a part of changing not just an energy source, but be a part of a new innovation revolution. Because that’s what the future looks like to me, one where we got to rewrite history and cast lasting change upon a present that so desperately needs it.

I refuse to be stand by and watch anymore damage be done, and neither should any of you, any of us. Methane and climate change are dangerous results of us taking advantage of a resource that is no longer the only option. We are at a point in time where we have learned to harness the power of the sun, a feat I believe we should all not only be celebrating, but utilizing in ways our ancestors couldn’t have imagined possible.

When something isn’t right and we have the power to not just fix it but make it better, then we must stand and stand tall to protect what we hold most dear. I answered when I was called to help my community, my home. I call upon you today to protect your home.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and thank you for your time.