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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHAIRMAN FRED UPTON

The Climate Reality Project

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STATEMENT OF EDRICHUS R. SYKES
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http://presenters.climaterealityproject.org/presenter/edrichus-sykes_3474

JULY 29, 2014
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Before the United States Environmental Protection Agency Energy & Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Chairman Fred Upton

The Subcommittee on Energy and Power, chaired by Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY), today held a hearing to examine EPA's proposed new carbon dioxide regulations for existing power plants. Proposed Rule on Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units "THE PRESIDENT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TO CUT CARBON POLLUTION IN AMERICA"

July 29th, 2014
Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Whitfield, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for convening this hearing and for inviting the Climate Reality Project to testify. I am Edrichus R. Sykes, Building Physician, Climate Ambassador and Founder of Pure Green Coatings Limited Liability Corporation a Service Disabled Veteran Small Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Historically Underutilized Business Development Zone Enterprise, and I am honored to be here today. Our shared vision a world re-engaged, living, working and playing in harmony with nature. I have submitted my full statement to the committee, which I ask be made part of the hearing record. I will now give a brief opening statement.

I am present by choice and desire to help the committee with jurisdiction over Energy and Power. My involvement in this cause is not simply a career endeavor and it is more than my family history—as if that would not be enough—but it is a painful result of the many stories I hear from struggling families across our country. I need to do something, we need to do something—and I beg you to make the most of the present opportunity and make it happen now. I urge adoption of new carbon dioxide regulations for existing power plants Proposed Rule on Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources.

Pure Green Coatings, LLC doing business as A1 Pure Green was formed in March 2008 to provide energy conservation measures that result in energy or fossil fuel savings. Today, our network consists of more than 3,000 followers and friends across the country. Our Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency services include a toll-free hotline staffed by certified, licensed and bonded energy performance contractors; Energy Vitals™, a free energy dashboard for low income and middle class families; professional sustainability training programs; Disabled, Veterans, Teens and Senior support; Free benchmark of current buildings energy performance; and grants to service organizations as well as respite grants to families in need to Save Money, Energy and our Planet!

A1 Pure Green is expanding worldwide by teaming with Non-Governmental Organizations like Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness whom is forming member organizations in various countries. PGC is an outgrowth of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and its member community partners include The Climate Reality Project, Sierra Club, National Cares Mentoring Movement – Atlanta Cares Circle, Citizens Climate Lobby, Georgia Institute of Technology Advanced - Technology Development Center, Green Chamber of the South, United Way of Greater Atlanta, Urban League of Greater Atlanta. I serve as the Building Physician and CEO of Pure Green Coatings a Limited Liability Company headquartered in Historic In town Community of Vine City within Neighborhood Planning Unit L.

A1 Pure Green is working toward collaboratively setting a paradigm of energy performance for individuals suffering from Carbon pollution which is driving climate disruption and we’re all paying the cost. We’re paying for it in dollars for higher healthcare bills. We’re paying for it in lives devastated by extreme weather events. We’re paying for it in lost jobs and in every way imaginable. We can’t afford these costs any longer, and it’s time to take action by raising awareness of our campaign to support the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan and other landmark federal, state, and local initiatives to cut carbon pollution and replace dirty fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy. The Climate Reality Climate Leadership Corps campaign The People vs. Carbon, founded by former Vice President and Noble Laureate Al Gore is providing education, and establishing programs and services that can be replicated in countries around the globe. Solar-bundled energy conservation measures result in energy or fossil fuel savings.
The Climate Reality project goals include: advocating to making a Historic Proposal a Historic Law. The EPA has done its job drafting a plan that points the way forward for our climate, our health, and our economy. Now it's up to us citizens to work together through *The People vs. Carbon* so this landmark measure becomes law. Make known that on June 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its Carbon Pollution Standards. Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule a national priority; working in partnership to advance *The People vs. Carbon* as a global health crisis that requires worldwide attention; promoting public awareness establishing state goals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants; improving quality of life for individuals living within Empowerment Zones and Renewal Communities Neighborhood Planning Unit; and raising the bar on performance based employees consisting of displaced youths, seniors, disabled and homeless veterans and their families, provided by independent contractors living within "High Poverty" Public Use Mico Data Area.

Accomplishing these goals include: educating families and professionals about Green Collar Career Pathways. Our proposed new and emerging Cleantech green collar jobs skills training will benefit non-custodial parents in State of Georgia Fatherhood and Problem Solving Court Programs, Disabled and other Veterans, low and moderate income, unemployed/underemployed, dislocated workers, people with disabilities, high school dropouts and people with criminal records living in the NPU and PUMA areas. We excel at utilizing High Impact Federal and State Hiring Programs.

The President’s Climate Action Plan released by Executive Office of the President June 2013 last year was a groundbreaking first step toward cutting carbon pollution in America. However, it’s no secret that the U.S. is behind the curve of several other countries that already have Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Renewable Energy Plans in place or in process. We have a lot of homework to do but we can learn a lot from what has already been done overseas—both in planning and in political commitment.

The next crucial step is for the plan to provide the U.S. with the moral authority and leverage necessary to take a leadership role in the upcoming *Climate Summit 2014* to be held by the United Nations in New York this September, as well as the following U.N. climate change conferences in Lima, Peru 2014 and Paris, France 2015. These talks aim to produce a legally binding and universal agreement on greenhouse gas emissions reduction to replace the Kyoto Protocol and offer a global roadmap for climate action in the years ahead, and strong U.S. leadership is vital to the agreement’s success an international meeting of those countries by the first quarter of 2012. The Climate Reality Project and A1 Pure Green would be honored to serve as supporting partners in such an effort and would be glad to work with EPA and others. Climate Reality applauds EPA for adopting the adopting the President’s plan, the U.S. offers a show of good faith – coupled with concrete action to back it up – that it’s committed to addressing climate change independent of other nations’ involvement. The EPA’s plan may also serve as a model to other countries on how they can enact structural change without triggering a recession or economic stagnation – and in fact how they may even sustain or boost growth as a result.

In low income families’ view, the international meeting would ideally mean nothing because of eviction notices, rent due, late notice, benefits stopped and how other countries have approached their plans and would produce less carbon emissions is farthest things from their minds. Such a meeting would help us develop our plan and help us begin to develop a global approach to this pandemic. The meeting would also include a day or more of panel discussions on established policies as well as innovative energy efficiency programs abroad as well as those in the U.S., of which there are many. There is little doubt we can get there faster by reviewing what has already been done, what has been successful, and what to avoid.
"Gifted and talented children are those identified by professionally qualified persons who by virtue of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance. These are children who require differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize their contribution to self and society" Marland, 1972.

One example that the U.S. can learn from is the award-winning Pathways out of Poverty Green Construction Program which was available in DeKalb County. In Training Partnership with Goodwill of North Georgia and Pure Green Coatings developed and trained Green Construction, Weatherization and Solar Panel Installation.

An independent report by Analysis Group, supported by funding from the Energy Foundation and the Merck Family Fund, EPA’s Clean Power Plan: States’ Tools for Reducing Costs and Increasing Benefits to Consumers. The report evaluates the Clean Power Plan – proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on June 2, 2014 – from the perspective of how it might impact consumers. The report examined how states’ plans to control carbon emissions may affect owners of affected power plants, other market participants in the electric industry, and, in turn, consumers of electricity. The paper examined one particular carbon control program – the Northeast states’ Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – that has been in operation for several years, to illustrate how such carbon-control compliance costs and benefits have evolved over the initial years of that program. The paper also reviews the normal ratemaking practices and other regulatory policies in states across the country that are designed to mitigate rate impacts of investments and program costs affecting production and delivery of power to consumers. The goal of the Report was to reflect on recent experience to outline the tools states have to control costs and increase consumer benefits as they develop their plans.


Georgia has laws and practices in place to protect its utility customers. In Georgia State Code §46-2-20c, the law states that the Public Service Commission “may, either by general rules or by special orders in particular cases, require all companies under its supervision to establish and maintain such public services and facilities as may be reasonable and just.”

EPAs Clean Power Plan provides palliative case for action for The United States for the impacts of Climate Change but not guidance on divestment to end of life issues for the coal and other harmful fossil fuels industries. And if we do things right, an international movement will follow.

I’m going to end with a quote from John Lewis, a writer who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 2010. He said, “I say to people today, 'you must be prepared if you believe in something. If you believe in something, you have to go for it. As individuals, we may not live to see the end.'” A1 Pure Green Coatings A1 Pure Green and The Climate Reality Project looks forward to working with Members of the Subcommittee to address the important issues raised in today’s hearing. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I would be glad to answer any questions.