John Friedrich, with Climate Parents. We’re mobilizing parents and grandparents across the country to take action on clean energy and climate for the sake of our kids and grandkids.

The world facing our children and grandchildren if we stay the current carbon course will be increasingly chaotic, and marked by extreme weather events such as the severe droughts, wildfires and flooding that have recently ravaged Colorado.

The stakes are high for our kids, including my 8-year old daughter Rosie. The National Climate Assessment states that “Climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways...certain people are especially vulnerable, especially children. Early action provides the largest health benefits. As threats increase, our ability to adapt to future changes may be limited.”

If we care about our kids, and their kids, we absolutely must do everything we can to reverse the tide on climate change. And since the biggest climate change drivers in the U.S. are dirty fuel-powered power plants, EPA must adopt and enact strong limits on carbon pollution from power plants without delay.

The health and well-being of all children now and throughout their lives must be the top priority in setting new carbon pollution limits. Climate Parents strongly supports the Clean Power Plan as an important step in making a transition to clean, kid-safe, climate-safe energy. However, we want to see the proposed carbon pollution standards strengthened to adequately protect our kids from harm.

Many states will be able to achieve even greater carbon reductions than called for in the Clean Power Plan because they
are retiring dirty power plants and moving to clean energy and energy efficiency much faster and at greater scale than EPA has estimated. A strengthened standard, with more ambitious carbon pollution reduction targets, would take this progress into account as a base to be built upon.

There are some that say we can’t afford to move toward a clean energy future. The reality is **we can’t afford not to!**

There’s too much at stake, the life support systems of the earth are too strained, there are too many kids suffering from asthma and other pollution-fueled diseases, to perpetuate the same outdated policies.

The days of getting a free pass to dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the air at the expense of our communities, our kids and their future must come to an end.

There is tremendous opportunity in making a transformation to a clean energy economy. A huge number of jobs will be created to make every school, home, and business in this country energy efficient, and powered by clean, homegrown sources of energy.

Today’s children are going to help make that better, healthier world a reality -- if we just give them the opportunity. And the Clean Power Plan is a very important step in that direction.

Climate Parents is circulating a petition in support of the Clean Power Plan, which has already been signed by thousands of supporters here in Colorado and across the country. I’d like to
read for the record a sampling of the comments that have been submitted so far:

Anne Mayberry in Steamboat Springs, CO writes:

It is time to let go of older power generating technology so we can innovate and embrace power technologies for the future.

Mary Coates, in Gastonia, NC:

Please think of the future of the whole planet, not just what's cheap and popular now - I don't want my grandkids to foot the bill for my excesses!

Kat McGhee, Hollis, NH:

My husband and I have children and grandchildren. We do not want to relegate their future to the environmental havoc continued expansion of fossil fuel dependence will reek upon future generations.

Peggy Gray, Troy, OH:

This is important to me because the pollution affects my health and that of my family and friends, both lung health and total overall health.
John Clark, of Granite Falls, NC:

I would not mind a small increase in my electric bill to pay for fresh air for my grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joyce Knarr, Tampa, FL:

Money will not buy our grandchildren clean air to breathe. Please act now to adopt aggressive tough rules to cut carbon pollution from power plants!!

Siah Richard, of Middletown, PA:

As a civil engineering student I believe it is extremely important to come up with cleaner and more sustainable designs within the energy sector. This comes by first creating new rules to regulate that sector. Cutting carbon pollution means a cleaner environment and an earth filled with abundant resources for generations to come.

Edwin Hiley, Athens, PA:
We're nearing, at, or past the point of no return relative to carbon dioxide concentrations. Much can and must be done to slow and reverse the past and current policies of energy production. Now!

John Frank, of Thorntown, IN:
Pollution is a true cost of an energy source. By imposing pollution restriction on traditional energy sources we are leveling the playing field for clean energy sources such as solar and wind.
Therese Brownfield, Larkspur, CO:
It is scientifically feasible, economically reasonable, and morally responsible for the health of our nation and our planet that the EPA and we citizens enact this rule and others like it. Let's be smart for our future.

GP Avery, Napa, CA:
Not imposing stricter standards will only make the cost of power more expensive in the future as we have to use more energy to compete with the effects of climate change. Natural or man-made, stronger rules will lessen the impact.

Wendy McKendrick, Westminster, CO:
Other countries (like Germany, Denmark and Indonesia) are leading the way to incorporating cleaner energy technologies. Let's not get left behind.

Nancy Noloboff, St. Augustine, FL:
I have a grandson whose life is just beginning. We need a sustainable future.

Thank you for taking action to enact a strengthened Clean Power Plan for the sake of our kids and grandkids.