Hi, My name is Janelle Wright. I am from Powder Springs, GA and am a third-year at the University of Virginia studying Environmental Science. I am also a sustainability advocate for my school and I am currently interning with Environmental Georgia. Conserving our excessive energy use has been important to me for a while now, and I try to encourage those around me to do the same. I was emerged in the environment as a long time member of Girl Scouts and have felt some sort of obligation to share my passion since then.

At school, our sustainability club has made a variety of efforts to limit Carbon emissions, practice energy efficiency, and save energy. I think that the strong participation in the events that we organize show a passion and commitment towards some change. <Dorm Energy Race> The Clean Power Plan is something that my generation cares about because we have access to the facts, and though we know that change cannot happen over night, change must happen, especially in our lifetime.

Identifying individual impacts humans have is one simple step that with a unified involvement can be extremely beneficial but I believe that beginning to take action starting with our power plants would lessen our footprint astoundingly. I have heard the opposition to the Plan make the case that the EPA is perhaps not considering a complete and final solution and that the cost is a heavy burden. To this I would say that the primary cause for our situation is our dependency on these polluting energy sources time and time again, only to consider renewable energy when it seems convenient. The Clean Power Plan is one that will take time and for changes to be made I would like to see the EPA set a template of the complete plan for Georgia, detailing specific changes that must be made to invoke change. The current plan is a start, but action is key.

The Clean Power Plan would also in turn improve the health of millions of Americans, particularly those who in our society are marginalized and at the greatest need for cleaner air. With this, though perhaps not immediate, a reduction in CO2 emissions could decrease doctor visits to treat the many types of illnesses that are directly linked to poor air quality.

Earlier this summer at Environment Georgia we were working to renew the Land and Water Conservation Fund that helps keep Georgia’s drinking water clean. I’ve noticed that those citizens that support clean water and enjoy using parks have shown a personal connection with the cause. Those who accept that global warming is and will continue to be a health threat, or those with first-hand experience, have already established this connection to the plan. As we have heard, these numbers are alarmingly high, making it rare not to know or have met someone who has been indirectly affected by the rise of CO2 emissions. It is now time for the Clean Power Plan to move forward. Thank You.