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The health, economic and environmental benefits of the Clean Power Plan are each, individually, a strong argument for continuing the program. Taken together, their benefit to our country should be evident. The EPA should recognize and support the Clean Power Plan as the most workable, effective framework for public health protection, and indeed, the protection of life as we know it.

With the promise of strong, ongoing enforcement of the plan, Wind energy has increased by over 20% in the last 2.5 years; solar power now accounts for 39% of new electricity generation capacity. These sources bring installation and maintenance jobs to the same areas hurt by decreasing world interest in non-sustainable energy sources, and they do so with a tiny percentage of the disruption, footprint, and toxic outfall of mining and fracking.

As importantly, efficiency and sustainability measures (often as simple as adding insulation and using LED light bulbs) have made great strides under the "eco aware" policies that align with the Clean Power Plan.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency currently contends that the "best system of emission reduction" cannot apply to solutions beyond pollution controls at a power plant such as renewable energy or energy efficiency. This interpretation would prevent the reductions in carbon dioxide needed to address climate change. Climate change is a true threat to the country's health, infrastructure, economy and overall well-being. Facilitating a clean electricity grid that does not contribute to climate change is essential to public health and the EPA's mission.

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