

**Opening Statement
Rep. Bobby L. Rush
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Hearing on “EPA’s CO2 Regulations for New and Existing
Power Plants: Legal Perspectives**

October 22, 2015

Mr. Chairman, today we are holding yet another, in what has now become a series of hearings on the Clean Power Plan.

Today, we will again be focusing on the legal perspectives, which was the exact same focus of a similar hearing on this very same topic back in March.

Mr. Chairman, this subcommittee has taken valuable time to repeatedly examine the cost impacts of the CPP, the legality of the plan, and ways to do away with the Clean Power Plan legislatively.

However, this subcommittee of jurisdiction has yet to hold a single hearing in this Congress on the underlying reason why a plan such as this is even necessary, namely to address climate change.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, it would appear that the majority side is hesitant to even utter the phrase climate change, unless it is doing so in a mocking, sneering, or contemptuous manner.

Mr. Chairman, in the midst of all of these hearings on the Clean Power Plan, I urge the majority to also hold a hearing on the issue of climate change.

In fact, Mr. Pallone and I will be formally submitting a letter to you and Chairman Upton requesting a hearing in the very near future on climate change.

Let's bring this issue of climate change up for discussion and hold a transparent and substantive discussion on the merits of the arguments of both sides of this debate.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve to hear their elected representatives voice their opinions on what many believe to be the most consequential issue facing our time.

If my colleagues on the other side truly believe that the overwhelming majority of the world's scientists and climatologists are either wrong, misguided, or are in cahoots in pulling off a global hoax, then let's discuss this openly in a public hearing.

Mr. Chairman, even as we sit here debating whether the EPA has the authority to legally put forth rules to decrease the nation's carbon emissions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a report just yesterday stating that September was the warmest month globally on record.

NOAA reports that the average global surface temperature in September was 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 20th century average.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, the agency noted that September was the fifth straight month to break the high temperature mark this year, and January through September saw the warmest temperatures since 1880 when this data was first recorded.

Mr. Chairman, NOAA reports that temperatures on land were 2.09 degrees Fahrenheit higher than average in September, and the U.S. experienced its second-warmest September on record.

Mr. Chairman, this subcommittee cannot afford to simply ignore science, ignore data, ignore the experts, and ignore the signs that Mother Nature continues to show us.

After we finish today's exercise of debating the legality of this rule, which the Courts will ultimately decide anyway, I would urge the majority to immediately schedule a hearing on the merits of the climate change debate.

The Members of this subcommittee, as well as the American people, would be well served to hear from the experts so that well-informed decisions can be made regarding this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and with that I yield back...