# Congressman David Schweikert Testimony for Energy and Commerce Committee, Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Member Day

Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Subcommittee Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member Shimkus, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak with you today.

I'd like to talk with you today about one of my priorities in this Congress, which is ensuring technology can play a key role in our environment, including measuring our air quality.

We all have the same common goals when it comes to the environment: accurate data that is publicly available, achievable compliance standards, and ultimately a cleaner environment.

The current system of monitoring environmental quality, assessing the quality of the data, and enforcement around that information, is entirely dependent on EPA's stationary monitors throughout the country. The current system by which a state must prove compliance, known as 'attainment', could be vastly improved and benefit our environmental process.

We can and should practice better science by leveraging publicly available, crowdsourced data.

Currently, stationary monitoring stations, at times in precarious locations, create a rigid algorithm of measurements that fail tell a complete story. But what if we incorporated mobile monitoring devices to increase the size, scope, and density of data collected?

Imagine if affordable air monitors, some that can be seamlessly purchased on places like Amazon, are deployed on city or private commuting vehicles. Or if your child has asthma and wants to go play at the neighborhood park. I challenge you to consider the magnitude of data these mobile monitors could provide a city or better inform parents or schools. This form of robust data collection is being used by Google Maps and WAZE produces, but its potential value for being deployed to improve the environment is, by comparison, untapped.

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1284, the Crowd Sourcing of Environmental Data Act of 2019, that would amend the Clean Air Act to give States the option of monitoring covered criteria air pollutants in designated areas by greatly increasing the number of air quality sensors in exchange for greater regulatory flexibility in the methods of monitoring.

My bill enjoys bipartisan support, including from Congressman Cardenas, a Member of this Committee, as well as Congressman Aguilar. I thank them both for their support.

This legislation would provide a city, county or state with optionality, not a mandate. Under this legislation, states would annually produce the information gathered from their own crowdsourced environmental data for submission to the state's EPA for technical review. Upon review, and if the data is found to be as good or better than the current data collected by the EPA's stationary monitors, it is then submitted to the federal EPA Administrator for final verification.

Upon successful review, the state is granted a year of authority to monitor and act upon its own data faster and more effectively. All the while, the current EPA monitoring stations are running

in the background to ensure that a failure in the state's monitoring would not result in a lack of environmental data collection.

Imagine being able to identify bad actors to the specificity of city blocks rather than an entire county. Through this technology we could tackle the problems in non-attainment areas and factually see where the bad actors operate.

I very respectfully urge this Committee consider my legislation, H.R. 1284, and please join me in harnessing 21st century technology.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this hearing.