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## **Trump Assault on Our Safeguards Continues with Executive Order Against Climate Action**

**Robert Verchick, President of the Center for Progressive Reform, released the following statement on President Donald Trump's executive order on rolling back the Clean Power Plan and the Climate Action Plan:**

"President Trump's executive order on climate change continues his dangerous, irresponsible assault on a host of health, safety, and environmental safeguards that protect people and save lives. Unraveling the Clean Power Plan will be more difficult than sending out a tweet, but if Trump and his administration succeed, their attacks on clean air rules will have serious consequences for the American people, including thousands more asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and otherwise preventable deaths. [According to the American Lung Association](#), more than half the people in the United States already live in counties with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Rolling back air quality protections like the Clean Power Plan will make this problem worse.

"The hidden landmine in this order is the directive to stop accounting for climate change impacts in federal planning. It's not enough that the president wants to bury his head in the sand when it comes to climate change; now he insists that the rest of the federal government do the same, making climate denial the official policy of the U.S. government. In effect, this renders entire coastal communities expendable in the eyes of the Trump administration, endangering Americans in Alaska, Florida, the Gulf Coast, and the Mid-Atlantic, among other places. In addition, Trump's policy of ignoring climate change will invite costly litigation, since some federal courts require its consideration under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

"And unsurprisingly, Trump's order also goes against the will of the American people. Significant majorities of Americans have consistently supported [strong environmental safeguards](#). This includes policies like [the Clean Power Plan](#) and the Paris climate accords. Unfortunately, instead of listening to the public, President Trump has made endangering our health and lives a key priority of his administration."

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*The Center for Progressive Reform is a nonprofit research and educational organization with a network of Member Scholars working to protect health, safety, and the environment through analysis and commentary. Read [CPRBlog](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and like us on [Facebook](#).*