



September 15, 2015

Administrator Gina McCarthy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

The EPA recently announced the final version of President Obama's climate change policy, the Clean Power Plan. The Clean Power Plan limits carbon pollution from U.S. power plants for the first time in U.S. history and demonstrates a serious commitment to addressing climate change and its impact on human health. The proposed Clean Power Plan also provides important health protections to communities disproportionately impacted by dirty air and water.

ThedaCare cares about the impact of the environment on health. Our mission is to improve the health of the communities we serve, and we are committed to delivering high quality, low cost care. We are always improving the quality of care and seeking to reduce cost, and one of the ways we do that is to become a more energy efficient organization.

For example, we've upgraded the lighting throughout our system to use more efficient bulbs, installed a micro-steam turbine to reduce steam generation, implemented a system-wide plastics recycling program that has already diverted 80 tons of plastic from landfills, and introduced environmentally friendly microorganisms to save one million gallons of water annually.

Our efforts have been recognized by leading sustainable energy organizations, including honors from Practice Green Health, VHA, EPA LEAP program, Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council and its Green Masters award, and UW-Green Bay. These awards affirm our commitment and direction.

On a national level, we are a founding member of the Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Climate Change Committee. ThedaCare also has actively participated in the national Climate Change Council. The council met three times at the White House to provide advice and guidance on this important policy.

Today, ThedaCare is participating in a Beta test of a climate change resiliency assessment. We are one of ten healthcare organizations around the country looking at the impact of climate change on our facilities and communities. Our aim is to fully build sustainability into our strategic business objectives and operations.

Our vision is to always set and deliver the highest standard of health care performance in measurable and visible ways. We urge the EPA to continue to work with health partners like ThedaCare to support environmentally conscious policies that do just that to protect our children, our health, and our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Linzmeyer", written in a cursive style.

Paul A. Linzmeyer  
Sustainability Leader

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