

## **Clean Power Plan Upheld by Appeals Court**

On January 21st a federal appeals court refused to block Obama administration regulations aimed at reducing power plant pollution while a legal battle wages on.

The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit was a victory for environmentalists and a defeat for states challenging the Environmental Protection Agency regulations in court.

The Clean Power Plan is a cornerstone of President Obama's climate change initiative, now incorporated into the recently signed United Nations climate agreement. It aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants 32% from 2005 levels over the next 15 years.

The legal challenge will go on, and may eventually end up in the Supreme Court, which has previously upheld the Clean Air Act, which provides the basis for the regulatory approach of the Clean Power Plan. Although 24 states joined the legal challenge, most states are proceeding to develop the plans to reduce emissions required by the CPP.

There has also been action in Congress to kill the Clean Power Plan, but a Presidential veto has so far stymied that. Some members of Congress hope they can use the Energy Bill now under consideration to gut the CPP.

Elders Climate Action members lobbied Members of Congress, urging support for the CPP during our September Grandparents Climate Action Day, and we will continue to support this important step to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the single largest source of this greenhouse gas.

