

## HB5018 Public Hearing

House Bill 5018 threatens to weaken citizen air monitoring programs like West Virginia Citizen Action's Empower Project. Pushed by industry to oppose the expansion of similar projects using PurpleAir sensors, the bill moved quickly through the House Energy committee and has advanced to the House floor.

### When and where is the public hearing?

Friday, February 2nd at 9:00 AM in the House Chambers

Registration begins in person at 8:30AM

If you can't join us, watch the hearing on the [Legislature's website](#)

### Citizen Air Monitoring talking points:

- **Filling in the gaps:** The EPA and West Virginia DEP have sensors across the state, but cannot monitor ambient air quality everywhere. Where they don't already have sensors, they fill in gaps in their data and populate their maps with ours.
- **Citizen action, citizens' rights:** We place our sensors with hosts who have valid concerns about their air quality, and concerned citizens need to be able to monitor the air they're breathing.
- **Data for our communities, not for regulation:** Data from our sensors already can't be used to regulate or fine polluters, but it *can* be used to suggest DEP investigate further and gather admissible data. Because of the Clean Air Act, passing this bill wouldn't change that.
- **Legislative overreach and industry meddling:** Industry-backed bills like HB5018 not only take power away from our citizens, but from the government agencies we work beside and the judicial system that allows recourse. No corporations should have that much power.

# Tell Your Story at a Public Hearing

## *A citizen's guide to making your voice heard at the legislature*

- **Plan for a 3 minute maximum time limit:**
  - Remember this formula: 1 minute = 150 words
  - Your 3 minute comments should not exceed 450 words
  - Write your comments down and practice them in front of the mirror or in front of friends and family so you are familiar with what you want to say. Or [schedule with an organizer](#) to practice!
  - You *can* bring photos or other visuals to the podium to help you tell your story.
- **Bring two copies of your written comments:**
  - Please bring TWO hard copies of what you plan to say—one for you to read from, and one to submit to the official record in case the time is cut short. Handwritten or typed, either works.
- **Include your name and information:**
  - Begin your public comment with your first and last name and where you live. Feel free to include contact information in your written submission as well.
- **Be polite:**
  - If you're frustrated with the bill or the Legislature, it's better to rephrase your comment as "I hope you consider [...] because [...]." Alienating decision makers does not work in your favor.

**If you can not attend virtually or in person and still want to make your voice heard, send an email to your delegate and House Speaker Roger Hanshaw: <https://ppls.ac/gs>**

- Express your concerns and personal story explaining how continuing air quality and citizen science have affected you.
- Include a few key facts, but don't worry about making them too technical—this is about you as a constituent!

