

November 6, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leaders Reid and Pelosi:

Over the past year, thousands of elected officials, community groups, employers, state agencies and other stakeholders urged the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to maintain the existing ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 75 parts per billion (ppb). These commenters highlighted the economic harm that would result from a lower ozone standard and that air quality has and will continue to improve without this regulation. Indeed, since 1980, ozone levels have decreased 33 percent and this trend will continue from investments and policies already in place. Nevertheless, on October 26, 2015, EPA promulgated a new, stringent ozone NAAQS of 70 ppb. Without immediate Congressional action, EPA's new rule will negatively impact our economy and stifle growth in many parts of the country. The undersigned organizations strongly encourage members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to listen to the concerns of their communities and stakeholders and protect our nation's recovering economy by taking necessary legislative steps to mitigate the rule's most harmful economic consequences while continuing EPA projected improvements to ozone air quality.

The severe economic impact of nonattainment designation on local economies and businesses has been well documented by the thousands of comments and letters submitted to the Administration, numerous Congressional hearings, and analyses from nonpolitical, nonpartisan research groups and organizations. EPA's own data indicate that 217 counties do not attain the current 75 ppb standard, and that the number could swell to 958 counties under the revised standards, subjecting large parts of the country to costly nonattainment control requirements. We are concerned by the hardships this rule will cause our businesses and local communities and question the necessity of this action when EPA projects that nearly the entire country will attain the standards by 2025 under existing federal and state controls, including those yet to be implemented for the 2008 standard.

EPA's new, stringent ozone NAAQS are already the subject of bipartisan concern. We therefore encourage members of both parties and Chambers to work together to develop a solution that reduces the resulting economic hardship while still maintaining intended air quality improvements.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

American Coatings Association

Aluminum Association

American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute

American Chemistry Council

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

American Forest & Paper Association

American Foundry Society
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Petroleum Institute
American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
American Wood Council
America's Natural Gas Alliance
Business Roundtable
Consumer Specialty Products Association
Corn Refiners Association
Council of Industrial Boiler Owners (CIBO)
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Flexible Packaging Association
Gas Processors Association
Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers, Inc.
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Association for Surface Finishing
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Federation of Independent Business
National Lime Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Tooling and Machining Association
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truckstops
North American Die Casting Association
Oregon Women In Timber
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Portland Cement Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association (RCMA)
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
The Carpet and Rug Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
Treated Wood Council
Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

CC: U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate