

**Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water Action * Earthjustice *
Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund * Greenpeace * Green
For All * League of Conservation Voters * National Audubon Society *
National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense
Council * Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club * Union of
Concerned Scientists**

May 19, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our millions of members, our organizations urge your administration to set a primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone at the lower end of the range recommended by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

After extensive review, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee on March 30, 2011, unanimously advised EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson that the evidence from controlled human and epidemiological evidence strongly supports a new primary ozone standard within the 60 – 70 parts per billion range. The EPA estimates that setting a standard at the lower end of that range would save thousands of lives.

Even at the 60 parts per billion level, the CASAC noted, “some healthy individuals have been shown to have clinically relevant responses.” A standard at the upper end of the range “would provide little margin of safety,” according to the CASAC.

When setting standards intended to protect public health, it is imperative to follow the most recent science on public health effects. The Clean Air Act has historically set standards to protect everyone’s health, making it one of the nation’s most effective public health laws. By saving millions of lives, avoiding millions of cases of pollution-related illness, and preventing millions of lost work days, the Clean Air Act has also been an economic success story. The total benefits of the Clean Air Act between 1970 and 2010 exceeded total costs by as much as 40 to 1.

We also urge you to follow the advice of CASAC and the National Park Service to adopt a secondary standard in the range of 7 to 15 ppm/hrs to protect forests and plants throughout the nation from ozone damage. We concur with the Park Service’s strong recommendation that the secondary standard be set toward the lower end of this range.

Your administration can build on the Clean Air Act’s strong 40-year record of health and economic success by setting a fully protective ozone standard. The Clean Air Act requires that the primary ozone standard be based solely on public health. Nonetheless,

the EPA's Regulatory Impact Analysis shows that even setting the ozone standard at the low end of the CASAC's suggested range could have net economic benefits of billions of dollars per year, especially if we invest in developing cleaner control technologies today.

Within the past decade, ozone concentrations have declined in many cities, including Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Houston and Milwaukee. But the latest science shows that a tougher ozone standard is needed to protect health. When asked to achieve health-based goals, American industry and ingenuity have found ways to cut pollution so communities throughout the United States can protect their citizens. In the very same states where a more stringent standard would cause new counties to be designated in nonattainment, state and local regulators have the expertise and experience to employ long-standing, cost-effective solutions to reduce pollution and better protect the public.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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