

## Stallworth, Holly

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**From:** Garth Nobles <GNobles@cityofliveoak.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:40 AM  
**To:** Stallworth, Holly  
**Subject:** Air Quality Standards

March 11, 2014

Dear Chairman Frey and Panel Members:

As an elected official, it is my responsibility to encourage policies that are in the best interest of my community – whether those are local, state or federal policies. I have recently learned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering stricter air quality standards – changes that will have a significant impact on my local economy.

Our nation's air quality has greatly improved over the last few years and with the implementation of the 2008 ozone standards, the tightest standards ever. We can build on this progress without going to the stricter and potentially very damaging ozone air quality standards the EPA may soon be proposing.

The new standards would be so stringent that even remote parts of the United States, such as the Grand Canyon, would be out of compliance. In fact, nearly every county in Florida is projected to be out of compliance if the new ozone regulations are adopted.

I am very concerned about the negative economic impacts these stricter standards will have on my community and my state, especially on our manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing is a growing industry in the State of Florida. We have 17,500 manufacturing companies in our state that employ more than 300,000 Floridians. Florida recently passed legislation to eliminate the sales tax on manufacturing equipment to help free up scarce capital so it can be put towards growing companies and creating jobs. We are just starting to see the positive effects of that legislation and these types of pro-growth, job-creating policies are what we need to be supporting around the country.

If stricter air quality standards are put into place, manufacturers and other businesses in our state will not be able to expand without a reduction of emission or complete shutdown of operations. They will have to change processes for existing facilities and pay for new equipment. Plans for new plants or expansion at existing plants will be shelved.

Like all of you, I believe the health and well-being of our citizens should be our top-priority, but a federal court ruled earlier this year that the current ozone standard of 75ppb protects human health with a margin of safety, which makes me question the value of reducing the standard to 70ppb given the severe economic impacts of such a strict regulation.

I respectfully request the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee recommend an ozone range that includes 75ppb within the range of a new standard. This win-win approach will keep Americans healthy and protected, while supporting our nation's continued economic recovery.

Sincerely,  
Garth Nobles  
Mayor  
City of Live Oak, Florida