



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 15, 2020

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Louis Anthony Cox, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee  
Science Advisory Board  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Cox:

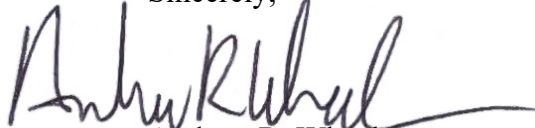
Thank you and the members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Science Advisory Committee for your comments on the EPA *Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur and Particulate Matter Second External Review Draft – June 2018*, hereafter referred to as the second draft NO<sub>x</sub>SO<sub>x</sub>PM ISA. My staff and I appreciate the thorough and constructive comments provided by the CASAC during its public meeting on September 5-6, 2018, public teleconference on April 27, 2020, and in your letter dated May 5, 2020, which contained the CASAC's consensus responses to the agency's charge questions and individual review comments from its members.

The EPA is carefully considering your comments and recommendations, as well as the comments we received from the public. As you know, the CASAC's advice plays a critical role in the process of evaluating the science underpinning our National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the *Clean Air Act*. With this in mind, my staff will incorporate the CASAC's comments and recommendations, to the extent possible, and create a final NO<sub>x</sub>SO<sub>x</sub>PM ISA by fall 2020.

I believe that sound science must be the foundation upon which all the EPA's regulatory and policy decisions are based. Independent reviews such as yours help ensure that the agency uses the best available science to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment. It is important for everyone to remember that the *Clean Air Act* envisions a rolling five-year review of each NAAQS. As part of this process, the agency will be constantly compiling and reviewing the latest science for the review of each NAAQS.

Thank you for your hard work and thoughtful review of the two drafts of the NO<sub>x</sub>SO<sub>x</sub>PM ISA. I look forward to regular interaction with the CASAC as the agency continues to meet its statutory mandate to regularly review and, as necessary, update each NAAQS.

Sincerely,



Andrew R. Wheeler