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Senate of Pennsylvania

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March 6, 2014

Dr. Holly Stallworth
Designated Federal Officer

Dear Dr. Stallworth:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the constituents I represent in the 47th Pennsylvania Senatorial district. Of course I support clean air for my community and I am pleased that air quality has improved significantly over recent years. This improvement in air quality will surely continue as the 2008 ozone standards, the tightest standards ever, are implemented.

You are now in the process of trying to make a scientific recommendation to further tighten those ozone standards, even before the previous standards are fully implemented. It is my understanding that some of the levels you are considering are at or approaching the peak background levels. I am not a scientist, but I have been able to glean that there is still considerable uncertainty regarding what ozone concentrations result in significant adverse health impacts. On the other hand, I know that the programs associated with the ozone NAAQS requirements could have a significant impact on jobs and the economy and ultimately public health in my community.

For these reasons, I strongly urge that any recommendation to EPA to tighten the ozone standard also include the uncertainty in the science. It is good public policy to consider the "no change" option before recommending any changed, especially since the 75 ppb standard is just being implemented.

Sincerely,

Elder Vogel, Jr.
47th Senatorial District

EV/mdr