

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

PHILLIP P. PUCKETT
38TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF BLAND, BUCHANAN, DICKENSON,
PULASKI, RUSSELL, AND TAZEWELL COUNTIES;
ALL OF THE CITIES OF NORTON AND RADFORD;
AND PART OF MONTGOMERY, SMYTH, AND WISE COUNTIES
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
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NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMERCE AND LABOR
TRANSPORTATION

March 4, 2014

Dr. Holly Stallworth
Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Ozone Review Panel

Dear Dr. Stallworth:

I am writing to you because I support clean air for my constituents 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.

I understand the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) is now in the process of possibly making a scientific recommendation to further tighten those ozone standards, even before the previous standards are fully implemented. And I understand that some of the levels you are considering are at or approaching the peak background levels. I'm 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 jurisdiction.

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

If you desire any further information regarding my concern, please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Phillip P. Puckett.

Phillip P. Puckett
Member, Senate of Virginia