



## ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA COUNTIES, INC.

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To: Dr. Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Ozone Review Panel

Air quality has improved dramatically over the last decades. We can build on this progress without going to the stricter and potentially very damaging Ozone NAAQS standards EPA may soon be proposing.

Therefore, I am writing to urge CASAC to finish its review and include the retention of the existing standards in the proposal. I believe that a fair analysis of the record will show retaining the existing standards of 75 parts per billion is the right policy choice. Strict new standards are not needed to continue air quality progress.

We can all agree that sensible government regulations contribute to the protection of safety and health without impeding energy development, job creation, and economic growth. We all want a clean and healthy environment for ourselves, our neighbors and our families. However, further tightening the 2008 ozone standards – the most stringent ozone standards ever – is a major concern because of the potential cost, reach and impact on the economy, and the lack of air quality benefits.

More stringent standards could impose unachievable emission reduction requirements on virtually every part of Indiana, including rural and undeveloped areas. In some cases, new development simply would not be feasible or permitted. The US is making progress toward meeting the current standards and air quality will continue to improve as we continue to reduce emissions that form ozone. EPA and the states are just beginning to develop the plans to meet the previous 2008 ozone standards, so EPA should not be changing the standards now before those efforts can be fully undertaken.

For these reasons, I urge that any recommendation to EPA include the current 75 ppb standard.

Sincerely,

/S/

David A. Bottorff  
AIC Executive Director

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