



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

MAY 10 2006

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Rogene Henderson
Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Henderson:

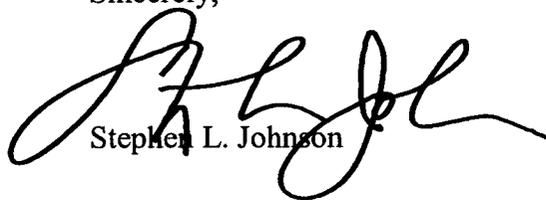
Thank you for providing me with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Ozone Review Panel's February 10, 2006, report (EPA-CASAC-06-003) concerning its December 6-7, 2005, peer review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Second External Review Draft of the Agency's Air Quality Criteria Document for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants*, Volumes I, II, and III (EPA/600/R-05/004aB, bB, and cB, August 2005). Your highly constructive efforts in providing independent expert peer review of the Second Draft Ozone Criteria Document, which incorporated revisions made in response to public comment and CASAC review of an earlier First External Review Draft of that document, are very much appreciated.

I was pleased to see your statements (a) noting that the CASAC Ozone Review Panel was generally pleased with the high quality of this Second Draft Ozone Criteria Document, (b) complimenting Agency staff members on their efforts, and (c) indicating that the CASAC Panel found that Agency staff had been responsive to the Panel's comments on the review of the First Draft. Also, please note that in preparing the final version of the Ozone Criteria Document that was issued by EPA on March 21, 2006, substantial efforts have been made by the Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Assessment staff to address comments noted in your February 10, 2006, letter to me. This includes, for example, efforts to ensure consistency in presentation of key findings and conclusions across the main chapters of the document, the Integrative Synthesis (Chapter 8), and the Executive Summary, and careful consideration of both positive and negative studies.

We are looking forward to further discussion with you on May 12, when the CASAC Ozone Review Panel will provide further advice to EPA on the Integrative Synthesis chapter of EPA's Final Air Quality Criteria Document for Ozone. This advice will be carefully considered as the Agency works to complete the second draft of its *Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Policy Assessment of Scientific and Technical Information* (OAQPS Ozone Staff Paper).

Again, thank you for your constructive review of this document. We look forward to your further input to the ongoing review process for the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Johnson', written over the printed name 'Stephen L. Johnson'.

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Marcus Peacock
Charles Ingebretson
George Gray