

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

May 17, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 4775, the "Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016." This important piece of legislation would provide for the reasonable implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, streamline the air permitting process, and institute other reforms to federal air quality standards, allowing for a balance between environmental stewardship and economic and employment growth.

States, along with business and industry, have been working hard to improve the nation's air quality for many years. Indeed, ozone levels have decreased 33% since 1980, and those levels will continue to decline as states implement the 2008 ozone standards. EPA itself projects that most of the country will meet the 2015 ozone standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb) by 2025 simply by implementing existing air standards, such as the 2008 ozone standards. Consequently, H.R. 4775 would allow for the sensible and efficient alignment of the implementation deadlines for the 2015 and 2008 ozone standards so that states have time to implement the 2008 ozone standard first, while still improving air quality. Otherwise, states may have to expend time and resources unnecessarily trying to implement two ozone standards simultaneously, and state and local areas may be faced with adverse impacts in terms of stymied economic development and lost job creation.

In addition to harmonizing the deadlines for the 2015 ozone standards, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016 would, among other things, do the following: (1) require that the 2015 ozone standard would not apply to new air permits completed before final nonattainment designations; (2) change the review for NAAQS from 5 to 10 years; (3) provide that when establishing or revising a NAAQS, the EPA Administrator may consider technological feasibility as a secondary consideration; (4) require the EPA Administrator to publish concurrently implementing guidance and regulations when establishing or revising a NAAQS in

order to assist states, permitting authorities, and permitting applicants; and (5) require the EPA Administrator to request advice on the adverse public health, welfare, social, economic, or energy effects from the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee before establishing or revising a NAAQS.

The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 4775, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016, and encourages you to support the legislation during the Energy and Commerce Committee's mark-up of the bill tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being the most prominent parts.

R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce