



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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November 21, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20502-0001

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing concerning the anticipated Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule related to the ground-level ozone standard. I appreciate the great challenge that EPA faces in setting health-based standards. As you are aware, protecting the health of Kentuckians is of critical importance to me. However, I must share with you the concern I have that the new ozone standard could create a hardship for many of our communities.

I understand the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee has recommended that the EPA adopt a standard within the range of 60-70 parts per billion (ppb). Any point within that range would be below the existing standard of 75 ppb, and any such reduction would have a significant impact.

The impact of the new standard will vary depending whether or not the standard is reduced from the current 75 ppb and how extreme the reduction is. For example, if 60 ppb is promulgated as the new standard, all 29 of the air monitors that Kentucky operates will exceed the standard. If the highest end of the range is selected, nonattainment will be limited to major metropolitan areas. Currently at 75 ppb only one metropolitan area exceeds the standard. This is of critical importance because if a lower standard is selected, counties in Kentucky that have never before experienced the ramifications of a nonattainment designation may be forced into that position.

I must remind you that other EPA rules either finalized or proposed have been touted for their direct or indirect impact of reducing ozone precursors. The Corporate Average Fuel Economy and Tier 3 standards will affect ozone-forming pollutants from the mobile sector. The Clean Power Plan, which was proposed on June 2 of this year, is expected to reduce 407,000-428,000 tons of nitrogen dioxide in 2030 as reported by the EPA. Thus, there are already extant or proposed ancillary standards that will significantly lower ozone-producing criteria pollutants. Therefore, my advisors recommend the ozone standard should remain unchanged for the time being.



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There are many environmental rules driving up costs in Kentucky that will negatively impact the economy. A new ozone standard does not have to contribute to these costs. Kentucky is a manufacturing state. For example, Kentuckians produce many of the vehicles and much of the aluminum and steel manufactured in the U.S., and our manufacturers rely on low-cost electricity to produce these products. I, therefore, ask you to retain the current ozone standard which will continue to protect the health of our citizens without burdening our communities with costly nonattainment compliance programs. The growth of our economy is dependent on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Beshear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Beshear" clearly legible.

Steven L. Beshear

cc: Gina McCarthy, Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency