

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leaders Reid and Pelosi:

The undersigned, which represent a diverse group of industries from across the country, write to express our strong support for H.R. 4775, the “Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016.” This legislation provides a common-sense approach for implementing national ambient air quality standards, recognizes ongoing state efforts to improve air quality through a reasonable implementation schedule for the 2015 ozone standards, streamlines the air permitting process for businesses to expand operations and create jobs, and includes other reforms that bring more regulatory certainty to federal air quality standards. Additionally, the undersigned support the request by numerous members of the House of Representatives that certain elements of H.R. 4775 be included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

We have significant concerns that the 2015 ozone standards overlap with existing state plans to implement the 2008 standards, leading to duplicative and wasteful implementation schedules, and unnecessary and severe economic impacts. The new ozone standards were promulgated in October 2015, only months after states received their final guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on how to implement the 2008 standards. This delay was the result of the Obama administration’s decision to halt work on the 2008 standards during a 2010-2011 reconsideration period. The EPA, however, did not account for this self-imposed delay when issuing the 2015 standards, thereby imposing duplicative costs and burdens of implementing multiple standards simultaneously. This is particularly wasteful as the EPA itself projects that nearly the entire country would attain the 2015 standards simply by being provided an opportunity to fully implement their state implementation plans for the 2008 standards. Local economies also face severe impacts, as analysis of data indicates that the 2015 standards could expand nonattainment to more than 950 counties if reductions under the 2008 standards are not allowed time to take effect, subjecting large parts of the country to costly nonattainment control requirements.

Notwithstanding concerns expressed by thousands of elected officials, state agencies, businesses, community groups, and other stakeholders, the EPA issued the 2015 standards without addressing the overlap with the 2008 standards and the enormous impacts that dual implementation would have on limited state resources, permitting, and the economy. It is now up to Congress to address these issues, and that is why we support the introduction of H.R. 4775. By better aligning the 2015 ozone standards with the 2008 standards and their associated emissions reductions, H.R. 4775 will help prevent unnecessary nonattainment designations and cost burdens, without sacrificing environmental protection. The legislation’s permitting relief and other reforms are also an important step towards air standards that balance environmental protection and economic development.

In sum, H.R. 4775 and the related appropriations request provide a common-sense plan that maintains continued air quality improvement without unnecessarily straining state and local economic resources.

We strongly encourage Congress to act quickly on this critical legislation.

Alabama Forestry Association  
Alabama Petroleum Council  
Alaska Chamber  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers  
Aluminum Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity  
American Coatings Association  
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute  
American Composites Manufacturers Association  
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Foundry Society  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Highway Users Alliance  
American Iron and Steel Institute  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)  
American Wood Council  
Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce  
API New York  
API Ohio  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Arkansas Petroleum Council  
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce  
Ascension Chamber of Commerce  
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (ARMA)  
Associated Industries of Arkansas  
Associated Petroleum Industries of Michigan  
Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania  
Association of American Railroads  
Association of Washington Business  
Baton Rouge Area Chamber  
Black Hills Forest Resource Association  
Business Council of Alabama

Central Chamber of Commerce  
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce  
Chemical Industry Council of California  
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware  
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois  
Chemistry Council of New Jersey  
Cherry Creek Chamber of Commerce  
Clay County Chamber of Commerce  
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry  
Colorado Business Roundtable  
Colorado Petroleum Association  
Colorado Timber Industry Association  
Connecticut Petroleum Council  
Consumer Energy Alliance  
Consumer Specialty Products Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce  
Council of Industrial Boiler Owners (CIBO)  
Dallas Regional Chamber  
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association (XPSA)  
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association  
Flexible Packaging Association  
Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Florida Petroleum Council  
Forest Resources Association  
Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Gas Processors Association  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Association of Manufacturers  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Chemistry Council  
Georgia Petroleum Council  
Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)

Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Granbury Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce  
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce  
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce  
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce  
Greenville Chamber  
Iberville Chamber of Commerce  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association  
Illinois Petroleum Council  
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association  
Independent Petroleum Association of America  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Indiana Petroleum Council  
Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA)  
Industrial Environmental Association  
Industrial Minerals Association - North America  
Institute of Makers of Explosives  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
Intermountain Forest Association  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers, Inc.  
Iowa Association of Business & Industry  
ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association  
Kansas Chamber of Commerce  
Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association  
Kansas Petroleum Council  
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers  
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Kentucky Chemical Industry Council

Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association  
League City Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry  
Louisiana Chemical Association  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
Maine State Chamber of Commerce  
Maryland Petroleum Council  
Massachusetts Petroleum Council  
Metro Atlanta Chamber  
Michigan Chemistry Council  
Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber  
Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
Minnesota Petroleum Council  
Mississippi Economic Council  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce  
Missouri Petroleum Council  
Monroe Chamber of Commerce  
Montana Chamber of Commerce  
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
National Association for Surface Finishing  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Convenience Stores  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Black Chamber of Commerce  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Textile Organizations  
National Federation of Independent Business  
National Lime Association  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Mining Association

National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Tooling and Machining Association  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Nevada Manufacturers Association  
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey Petroleum Council  
New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry  
New Mexico Business Coalition  
New Mexico Oil & Gas Association  
New York State Chemical Council  
North American Die Casting Association  
North Carolina Chamber  
North Carolina Petroleum Council  
North San Antonio Chamber  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Chemistry and Technology Council  
Oklahoma State Chamber  
Oregon Women In Timber  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce  
Palacios Chamber of Commerce  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America  
Portland Cement Association  
Precision Machined Products Association  
Precision Metalforming Association  
Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce  
Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association (RCMA)  
Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates  
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

South Carolina Manufacturing Alliance  
South Carolina Petroleum Council  
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Tennessee Petroleum Council  
Texas Association of Business  
Texas Association of Manufacturers  
Texas Chemical Council  
Texas Forest Industries Council  
The Business Council of New York State  
The Chamber of Commerce of Reno, Sparks, and Northern Nevada  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce  
The Kansas Chamber of Commerce  
The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association  
Treated Wood Council  
Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Upstate Chamber Coalition  
Utah Petroleum Association  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Virginia Manufacturers Association  
Virginia Petroleum Council  
West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce  
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
West Virginia Manufacturers Association  
West Virginia Petroleum Council  
Western Wood Preservers Institute  
Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce  
Wisconsin Paper Council  
Wyoming Ag-Business Association  
Wyoming Business Alliance  
CC: U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Senate