



FEB 08 2012

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The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) appreciates the opportunity to work with you and the US EPA on a wide range of issues of interest and concern to local governments. More specifically, the Committee is particularly grateful to have the opportunity to comment on the ongoing review of ozone standards. The LGAC has reviewed and considered recent activities regarding EPA's review of the 2008 ozone standard. Pursuant to the Committee's charter we offer the following comments regarding the national ozone standard.

The LGAC's foremost concern with this delay is the progress EPA had been working toward in reviewing the 2008 standard. Until the decision to delay, EPA made valuable steps forward in analyzing and assessing the ozone standard and its effect across the country. **The Committee recommends that EPA be cautious of moving backwards, in science or in policy, due to this delay and avoid beginning the review process anew.**

The Committee respectfully recommends that EPA not lose focus on scientific findings that arose from the prior review of the 2008 ozone standards. We acknowledge the Agency's opinion that the Agency continues to protect the public health and fully appreciate your commitment to science in your leadership of EPA. We also understand the reasons for the delay in reviewing the 2008 ozone standard.

Additionally, the Committee commends EPA for announcing the upcoming development of a program modeled after 2006's *Ozone Flex*, with the aim of allowing states greater flexibility in the steps they take to meet the 2008 ozone standards. This voluntary program helps states prepare themselves for potentially stricter ozone limits in the future. **The Committee recommends that EPA expand this program, or create a counterpart specifically aimed, to localities, rather than focusing solely on the states.**

We also recommend the creation of a "toolbox" of technical information, a "manual" of compiled steps, examples of success, etc. that is available to states and local governments in order to help them, voluntarily, increase their communities' energy efficiency and renewable energy use. While certain steps and actions are under the control of states as the regulating authorities, there are vast opportunities for local projects, guidance, and/or regulations.

The Committee anticipates the five-year review of the ozone standards for 2013 and looks forward to its continued work with the Agency on this effort.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Heather McTeer Hudson

LGAC Chair



The Honorable Salud Carbajal

Chair, Air, Climate and Energy Workgroup

CC: Gina McCarthy
Janet McCabe