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OFFICE

200 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, GA 31088
478-542-2115
FAX 478-923-5697

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March 22, 2013

Ozone Advance

C/o Laura Bunte

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, C304-01

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition would like to participate in the Ozone Advance program. The Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC) is a coalition of thirteen cities and seven counties in Middle Georgia dedicated to maintaining and improving regional air quality, to protect the health of their citizens and to continue to grow the economy of Middle Georgia.

In April of 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency formally designated Bibb County, Georgia and a portion of Monroe County, Georgia as in nonattainment for federal ozone standards. Since the founding of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition in 2004, the air quality in Middle Georgia has steadily improved and the Middle Georgia region is no longer in nonattainment.

The member counties in the MGCAC include Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach and Twiggs. The ozone monitor in this region is located in Macon, Georgia in Bibb County. We understand that our efforts under Ozone Advance may benefit the Middle Georgia region by potentially:

- Reducing air pollution in terms of ozone as well as other air pollutants
- Ensuring continued healthy ozone levels
- Maintaining the ozone NAAQS
- Helping avoid violations of the ozone NAAQS that could lead to a future nonattainment designation
- Increasing public awareness about ground-level ozone as an air pollutant
- Targeting limited resources toward actions to address ozone problems quickly

Our goal is to implement measures and programs to reduce ozone in Middle Georgia in the near term and to continue to plan for long-term air quality improvement. We agree that it is in our best interest to work together and in coordination with stakeholders and the public to proactively pursue this goal. We wish to join the Ozone Advance partnership with EPA to preserve or improve the air quality in the Middle Georgia region and we meet the program eligibility criteria. We appreciate the support that the EPA has provided to the MGCAC over the years and look forward to continuing our productive partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tommy Stalnaker".

Tommy Stalnaker
Chairman, Houston County Board of Commissioners