



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 1

**5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Charles Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

Thank you for your state recommendation dated September 29, 2016, on air quality designations for the revised 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone throughout Massachusetts. I appreciate the information you shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as we move forward to improve ozone air quality. This letter is to notify you of the EPA's preliminary response to Massachusetts's recommendations for ozone designations for Berkshire, Hamden and Worcester counties.

This letter supplements the enclosed letter dated November 6, 2017 from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in which the EPA designated all of Massachusetts Attainment/Unclassifiable for 2015 ozone NAAQS (our cleanest category) with the exception of Berkshire, Hamden and Worcester counties. At this time, EPA has preliminarily determined that ozone air quality in these three counties also meets the 2015 ozone standards based on 2014-2016 air quality data. Therefore, the EPA is proposing to extend the Attainment/Unclassifiable for 2015 ozone NAAQS to include these areas.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact David Conroy of my staff at 617-918-1661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "for" followed by a stylized signature.

Deborah A. Szaro
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Nov. 6, 2017 letter from Scott Pruitt

cc: Matthew Beaton, Secretary, Energy and Environmental Affairs
Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, MA DEP
Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner, MA DEP



E. SCOTT PRUITT
ADMINISTRATOR

November 6, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor of Massachusetts
State House, Room 280
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

I am writing to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that air quality in part of Massachusetts meets the 2015 ground-level ozone standards, consistent with your recommendations for those areas. As such, we are designating these areas "attainment/unclassifiable." The enclosed table lists the portions of Massachusetts the agency is designating at this time. For the rest of Massachusetts, the EPA is not extending the time provided under section 107 of the Clean Air Act but is not yet prepared to issue designations. The agency intends to address these areas in a separate future action.

Improved air quality is a shared goal and together, we have made considerable progress to reduce ozone levels throughout the country. As a testament to cooperative federalism, monitored levels of ozone have dropped 22 percent since 1990. Increasingly important is the recognition of and improved understanding regarding external elements that can impact a state's ability to achieve compliance, including background ozone, international transport and exceptional events. The agency intends to give appropriate consideration to these and many other factors during our continued conversation and work with you and your state staff on the 2015 ozone standards. I appreciate the information already provided and look forward to continued engagement on this important issue.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at lyons.troy@epa.gov or at (202) 564-5200.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt", written over a large, stylized flourish.

E. Scott Pruitt

Enclosure

Enclosure: Designated Areas for the 2015 Ozone Standards

Massachusetts	
Area	Designation
Barnstable County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Bristol County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Dukes County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Essex County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Franklin County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Hampshire County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Middlesex County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Nantucket County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Norfolk County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Plymouth County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Suffolk County	Attainment/Unclassifiable