

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