

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

It is our understanding that you are finalizing an update to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and plan to release the update imminently. We write to express our grave concerns with your agency's proposal and urge you to halt its release.

We joined a letter alongside 70 of our colleagues in October of 2023 urging the EPA to withdraw the costly and unnecessary proposal and review the PM_{2.5} NAAQS under the Clean Air Act's regular review cycle. To date, we have not received a response to that letter.

With nearly 700,000 comments received on the proposal in the Federal Register last year, it is clear that this will have an enormous impact on nearly every industry. Last October, over 70 manufacturing organizations sent a letter¹ to White House Chief of Staff Jeffrey Zients, outlining their concerns with the proposal, and warning of the negative economic impacts that would be caused by its implementation.

The United States boasts some of the cleanest air in the world today according to Yale University's Environmental Performance Index². As Members that represent states with robust timber industries, we know firsthand the extensive benefits that the forestry sector and forest products industry have on the environment and the economy. The forest products industry would be severely impacted by the implementation of this proposal. Nationwide, at nine micrograms, nearly 80% of the sawmill and papermill improvement projects over the last five years would have failed to meet their air permits.

We urge you to halt the release of the finalized update and review the NAAQS under the regular five-year review schedule.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

¹<https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/component/air>

²https://www.afandpa.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/PM2-5_Industry_letter.pdf