

February 4, 2008

Joshua Bolten
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff
The White House
West Wing
Washington, DC, 20500

Dear Mr. Bolten,

The Tennessee mayors signing this letter are seeking your support and that of the White House to prevent a dangerous mistake that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seems well on its way to making. They appear ready to replace the highly successful National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone with an unnecessarily stringent new standard that is scientifically unjustified and a serious economic threat to the communities represented by the undersigned mayors.

For all practical purposes, an ozone standard tighter than the current standard of 0.08 parts per million is unattainable for most counties and cities using available technology. By imposing the proposed new standard on communities in Tennessee and across the country, the EPA would be creating severe economic damage with no compensating economic benefits.

Non-compliance with an NAAQS, even one as impractical as the EPA's proposed new ozone standard, requires local jurisdictions to invest in mandatory compliance programs. Responsible estimates put the cost of these programs in connection with a new ozone standard at \$10 to \$22 billion a year. This economic drain would come in the form of higher taxes to pay for non-productive government programs and from mandatory restrictions on business that would curb economic growth and discourage the private investment so crucial to job creation.

In short, a new ozone standard would be all pain and no gain. We're confident that you have been following the criticism of the proposed new standard by the scientific community, including prominent scientists who have advised the EPA. Some of those scientists have publicly accused the EPA of misrepresenting scientific data to justify a tightening of the ozone standard. Even the EPA's chief air quality officer concedes that there is substantial feeling within the scientific community that no scientific case has been made for the benefits of replacing the current ozone standard.

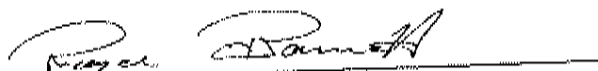
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The big unanswered question for us is why the EPA is moving towards a March announcement of a new standard without scientific justification, despite the economic damage it would do to America. We were not comforted by the statement of an EPA official that the agency is legally prevented from considering the economic impact of its policy decisions. The White House is under no such restraint and we strongly urge you to contact EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson and convince him to retain the current ozone standard.

Sincerely,



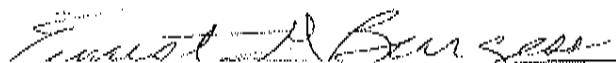
Mayor Doyle Arp
Louden County, Tennessee



Mayor Royce Barnett
Stanton, Tennessee



Mayor Howard Bradley
Robertson County, Tennessee



Mayor Ernest Burgess
Rutherford County, Tennessee

Whitney Joe Chambers Sr.

Mayor Whitney Joe Chambers
Piperton, Tennessee

Chester Coker

Mayor Chester Coker
Braden, Tennessee

Gary Davis

Mayor Gary Davis
Bradley County, Tennessee

Anthony DeMatteo

Mayor Anthony DeMatteo
Estill Springs, Tennessee

Steve M. Godsey

Mayor Steve Godsey
Sullivan County, Tennessee

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Dick Grayson

Mayor Dick Grayson
Johnson County, Tennessee

Linda Haycs

Mayor Linda Haycs
White Bluff, Tennessee

Mark Hipsher

Mayor Mark Hipsher
Rutledge County, Tennessee

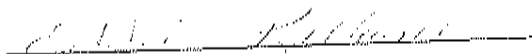
Ken Jones

Mayor Ken Jones
Meigs County, Tennessee

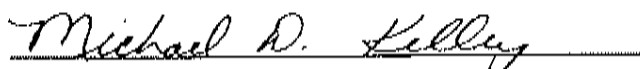
David Jackson

Mayor David Jackson
Kimball, Tennessee

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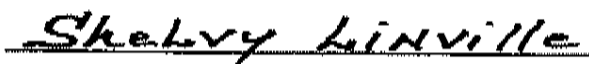
Mayor Eddie Kellum
Burlison, Tennessee



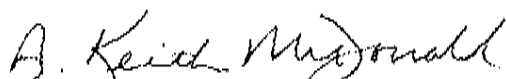
Mayor Michael Kelly
Saint Joseph, Tennessee



William Donald Lewis
Mayor Erwin, Tennessee



Mayor Shelvy Linville
Macon County, Tennessee



Mayor Keith McDonald
Bartlett, Tennessee

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Benny McGuire

Mayor Benny McGuire
Obion County, Tennessee

Johnny Merritt

Mayor Johnny Merritt
Union County, Tennessee

ALAN PALMIERI

Mayor Alan Palmieri
Jefferson County, Tennessee

John M. Proffitt

Mayor John Proffitt
Athens, Tennessee

Kenneth Ray

Mayor Kenneth Ray
Watauga, Tennessee

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Anthony S Reames

Mayor Anthony Reames
Orme, Tennessee

Raymond Roach

Mayor Raymond Roach
Englewood, Tennessee

Jim Sells

Mayor Jim Sells
Rogersville, Tennessee

Mike Stinnett

County Executive Mike Stinnett
Polk County, Tennessee

Robert Stone

Mayor Robert Stone
Dickson County, Tennessee

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James D. Talley

Mayor James Talley
Ducktown, Tennessee

Bill Wells

Mayor Bill Wells
Lafayette, Tennessee

Stanley Wilder

Mayor Stanley Wilder
White Pine, Tennessee

Ken Wilber

Mayor Ken Wilber
Portland, Tennessee

Ricky Woodard

Mayor Ricky Woodard
Westmoreland, Tennessee

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CC:

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
SD-455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker
United States Senate
SD-185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Phil Bredesen
Governor, State of Tennessee
State Capitol Building
Nashville, TN 37219