

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

June 6, 2012

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We write to recommend that EPA include in the forthcoming proposed rule, "Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter," a proposal to retain both the current 24-hour standard and also the current annual standard for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). A proposal to retain the current standards will allow full consideration of regulatory alternatives for public comment and interagency review prior to issuance of the final standard.

We note that the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter were established in 2006 and have yet to be fully implemented. Furthermore, we note that fine particulate matter is ubiquitous, is generated by both natural and man-made sources, and that the scientific evidence of associations between airborne particulate at current ambient levels and studied human health effects, while voluminous, continues to be characterized by critical uncertainties regarding effect thresholds, causality of the observed associations, and the contribution of individual particulate matter species. Stringent standards that seek to control a ubiquitous and naturally occurring pollutant will likely be costly and have significant regulatory and other implications.

We understand that you plan to issue a proposed rule as soon as next week, a schedule that does not allow for full consideration of alternatives and review by expert scientists at other federal agencies. We therefore urge you to include the retention of the current standards in any proposed rule addressing the ambient air standards for particulate matter.

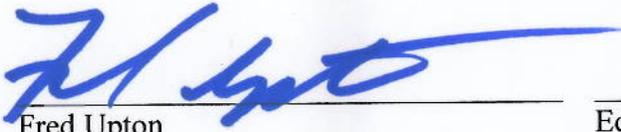
We support the President's commitment to a regulatory system that is based on the best available science, and to a process that encourages public participation and consideration of

Letter to the Honorable Lisa P. Jackson

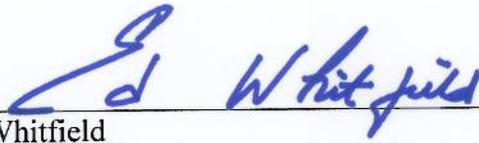
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alternative regulatory approaches. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Should you have any questions, please contact Mary Neumayr of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

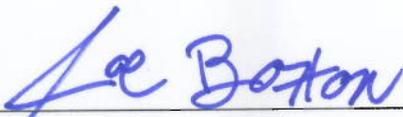
Sincerely,



Fred Upton  
Chairman



Ed Whitfield  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power



Joe Barton  
Chairman Emeritus

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

The Honorable Cass Sunstein, Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget