

March 6, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environment Protection Agency  
Attn: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ- OAR-2008-0699

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

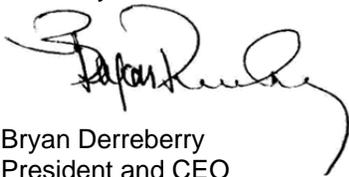
As the largest business association in the Charleston South Carolina MSA, we are writing to express our deep concern about the harmful impact that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed rule to make ozone standards more stringent could have on our region. Ozone standards at the levels considered in EPA's proposal could push virtually the entire country into "nonattainment" – where local communities face burdens to commercial and industrial activity not only vital to creating jobs, but also to providing tax revenue that support important local services like public safety and education. This proposal's hardship to the American worker is real and immediate, while the benefits are unverified and uncertain. Therefore, the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to retain the current ozone standard when finalizing this proposal.

If finalized, EPA's proposed stringent ozone standards could severely limit business expansion in nearly every populated region of the United States and impair the ability of U.S. companies to create new jobs. EPA's proposed range would immediately add red tape to companies seeking to grow even in areas that can attain those standards. The Clean Air Act carries even stiffer consequences for nonattainment areas, directly impacting economic vitality of local communities and making it difficult to attract and develop business. Increased costs associated with restrictive and expensive permit requirements would likely deter companies from siting new facilities in a nonattainment area. Making America a less attractive place to do business in this way risks shipping jobs overseas.

We have a rapidly expanding business community in our region. Companies building a new facility or performing major modifications to certain existing facilities resulting in increased ozone concentrations in, or near, a nonattainment area will be required to meet the most stringent Clean Air Act standard by installing the most effective emission reduction technology regardless of cost. The time delay and additional costs will only harm our business environment, cut job growth and will result in damaging a recovering economy in our region, state and nation.

It makes no economic sense to us at all to lower Ozone standards at this time. We urge you to reconsider this issue and let the current ozone standards have an opportunity to work.

Sincerely,



Bryan Derreberry  
President and CEO