

March 3, 2004

Honorable Mitt Romney
Governor of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Romney:

Thank you for your letter forwarding Massachusetts' recommendations on air quality designations for the national health based standards for fine particles. We received your letter on February 17, 2004.

Your letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their community. We intend to carefully review the recommendations and work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in determining final designations. The EPA must make its final official designation decisions for fine particles by December 31, 2004.

We look forward to working with Massachusetts in the coming months on designations for the fine particle standards. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Tim Williamson, Acting Manager of the Air Quality Planning Unit, at 617-918-1099.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator

cc: Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary, EOE
Robert W. Golledge Jr., Commissioner, DEP
Barbara Kwetz, DEP