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September 15, 2004

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

I am writing concerning the process of determining nonattainment boundaries for the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) national ambient air quality standard in Pennsylvania. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received a letter and analysis from Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, supporting Pennsylvania's designation recommendations for the PM_{2.5} standard. This letter was submitted in response to a "120-day" letter dated June 29, 2004, from EPA Region III regarding its proposed modifications to Pennsylvania's PM_{2.5} designation recommendations.

I urge you to reconsider EPA's proposed PM_{2.5} designation modifications. EPA's proposed modifications do not address the unique, local PM_{2.5} problem that exists in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. EPA's proposed modifications also unnecessarily add attainment counties to adjacent nonattainment areas. I share EPA's concern that the health impacts due to exposure to PM_{2.5} pollution must be dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. However, EPA's modifications will only result in more counties being needlessly designated nonattainment and more complicated planning requirements - taking more time to achieve the PM_{2.5} standard, not less.

Pennsylvania's recommendations were developed in accordance with guidance issued by EPA to States and Tribes for the PM_{2.5} designation process. Thank you in advance for your continued consideration of Pennsylvania's recommendations. This issue is critical to Pennsylvania's future.

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If you have questions or need additional information concerning our PM_{2.5} designation recommendations, please contact Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, by e-mail at kmcginty@state.pa.us or by telephone at 717-787-2814, or Nicholas A. DiPasquale, Deputy Secretary for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection, by e-mail at ndipasqual@state.pa.us or by telephone at 717-772-2724.

Sincerely,



Edward G. Rendell
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Kathleen A. McGinty, PADEP
Donald Welsh, EPA Region III
Judith Katz, EPA Region III
Nicholas A. DiPasquale, PADEP
Joyce E. Epps, PADEP