



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2008

**EPA, REGION III
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

August 28, 2008

Mr. Donald Welsh
Regional Administrator (3RA00)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street, Region III
Philadelphia PA 19103-2023

Dear Mr. Welsh:

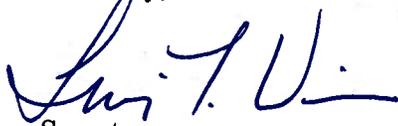
Thank you for your letter to Governor Martin O'Malley regarding Maryland's recommendations for designating areas under the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard. The Governor received your letter and has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Although the previous three years' worth of monitoring in the Washington area showed fine particulate levels close to the standard, the most recent 2005 to 2007 results indicate clean data. The Department agrees with EPA's findings that the Maryland portion of the Washington D.C. region complies with the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard, and should therefore be designated accordingly.

Clean air continues to be very important to the state of Maryland and its citizens. Under the current 8-hour ozone standard, Maryland has made significant progress in reducing air pollution, and more progress is expected upon implementation of the upcoming 24-hour fine particle standard.

Thank you again for your letter. The Governor appreciates hearing from you and, on his behalf, I thank you for your interest in this very important matter. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me or Mr. George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director of Air and Radiation Management Administration at 410-537-3255 by e-mail at gaburn@mde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,



Secretary

cc: Mr. George (Tad) S. Aburn Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration

