

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned associations represent thousands of members that generate trillions of dollars in economic activity and employ millions of workers across this country. We urge you to pass a Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recently finalized rule that unnecessarily tightened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), which will have an adverse impact on economic growth.

Protecting our environment and improving public health are priorities for our members. Quality of life encompasses complex economic and social considerations. Our members are committed to the communities in which they live and serve, and we are taking bold steps to protect air quality. Through tireless investment and innovation, we have sharply reduced PM_{2.5}. As a result, industry in the United States has some of the cleanest and most efficient operations in the world, driven by technology innovation and environmental stewardship.

Thanks to technologies developed by industries, our nation's air quality has significantly improved, with a 42% reduction in PM_{2.5} since 2000.¹ Indeed, recent analyses conducted by the EPA found that only 16% of PM_{2.5} emissions are from industrial processes or stationary fuel consumption.² The vast majority of emissions are from sources well outside of our control, with fires, dirt roads, and other nonpoint sources accounting for approximately 84% of PM_{2.5} emissions.³

Despite this progress, EPA reduced the standards by 25% -- from 12 µg/m³ to 9.0 µg/m³. This puts innovation and economic growth at risk, making it more difficult to create jobs, build cutting-edge factories and lead the world in the development of products that will shape modern life in the decades ahead. By setting the standard at what are essentially background levels in some parts of the country, this rule will make it more difficult for states to provide permits for the construction of new facilities or expansions of existing factories.

¹ See Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality–National Summary, *available at* <https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/air-quality-national-summary>.

² Environmental Protection Agency, Overview of Particulate Matter (PM) Air Quality in the United States (Updated June 29, 2023), *available at* https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/PM_2022.pdf.

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter, May 2022, https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/Final%20Policy%20Assessment%20for%20the%20Reconsideration%20of%20the%20PM%20NAAQS_May2022_0.pdf

The new standard will also put the United States at a disadvantage by hurting our ability to compete on the world stage. Our global competitors have adopted standards that are less stringent than the EPA rule and are phased in over a much longer time frame. For example, the European Union has a PM2.5 standard of 25, with proposals to lower it to 10 by 2030. The United Kingdom has a target of lowering the standard to 10 by 2040. The current standard in China is 35. This puts the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage by making it more difficult to construct or expand factories at a time when firms are actively seeking to diversify their supply chains and spurring new industrial investments.

Congress must act to stop this harmful rule before it takes effect. Resolutions of disapproval have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to address this rule. S.J.Res. 65 was introduced by Minority Leader McConnell and H.J.Res. 117 was introduced by Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA). We urge the House of Representatives and the Senate to bring them up for a vote.

Americans deserve a strong economy and a healthy environment. We urge Congress to pass a resolution of disapproval addressing the EPA's actions as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

National Association of Manufacturers
Alabama Forestry Association
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM)
American Foundry Society
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Petroleum Institute
American Wood Council
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
Associated Industries of Missouri
Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire
CIBO
Composite Panel Association
ECIA – Electronic Components Industry Association
Essential Minerals Association
Flexible Packaging Association
Forging Industry Association
Glass Packaging Institute
Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Indiana Cast Metals Association
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Manufacturing Technology Deployment Group
Metals Service Center Institute
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Mining Association
National Propane Gas Association

National Oilseed Processors Association
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
North American Millers' Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
PRINTING United Alliance
Portland Cement Association
Railway Supply Institute
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Aluminum Association
The Carpet and Rug Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
The Hardwood Federation
The Recycled Materials Association
The Sulphur Institute
Treated Wood Council
US Chamber of Commerce
Vinyl Institute
Window & Door Manufacturers Association