

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Mail Code: 2310A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We understand that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be submitting a revision to the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2017 Attainment Year for the Environmental Protection Agency's approval later this summer.

TCEQ released the proposed revision for public comment on December 11, 2015. EPA submitted comments to TCEQ on January 29, 2016 stating, "We appreciate the work by the TCEQ in developing these documents. However, with the shorter attainment date, we remain concerned that there are no new measures beyond federal measures and fleet turnover and additional local and regional ozone precursor emission reductions will be necessary to reach attainment by 2017."

This statement by EPA succinctly expresses a concern shared by my constituents that TCEQ is not fulfilling its obligation to protect the citizens of DFW from the deleterious human health and economic impacts of ozone pollution. The DFW area has been in nonattainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone since 1991 and the TCEQ's decision to not require additional ozone control measures raises the concern that my constituents will continue to suffer the negative impacts of poor air quality.

According to a 2015 study by the Dallas County Medical Society, a reduction of 5 parts per billion (ppb) in the ozone levels of the 10-county DFW nonattainment area would prevent 165 hospital admissions, 350 emergency room visits, 120,000 school absences, 77 deaths from lung and heart disease, and 150,000 restricted activity days each year. It is estimated that this would prevent an economic loss of over \$500 million dollars to the DFW area every year.

The results of an October 2015 study from the University of North Texas show that the installation of nitrogen oxide pollution controls on five coal-fired power plants located to the south and east of the DFW area would reduce emissions by up to 90 percent and allow the region to reach the attainment standard of 75 ppb by 2017.

As currently proposed, the state's plan for addressing air quality in DFW is insufficient to meet the existing federal ozone standard. While we hope that the TCEQ will take the public comments it received by EPA, the Texas Medical Association, and others into consideration and require additional emissions controls in the final SIP revision it submits to the EPA, we ask you to consider rejecting the state's plan and the use of a Federal Implementation Plan if your agency decides that the final SIP revision is insufficient and the state will not negotiate in good faith.

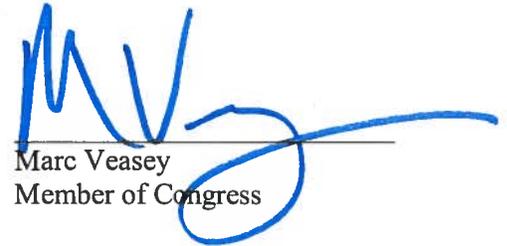
As members of Congress who are committed to advancing the health and well-being of the people of the DFW area, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the burden imposed by poor air quality is eliminated.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress