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From: zacariss@tdstelme.net
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 3:50 PM
To: Crawford, Jeff S
Subject: Maine Needs To Support The Ozone Transport Region Initiatives

Mr. Jeff Crawford,

Maine Needs To Support The Ozone Transport Region Initiatives For a state that is recognized as a "Vacation Land", the outdoors Mecca of the Northeast and the right place to visit, pollution wise, Maine has the misfortune of being located in the wrong place geographically. From high levels of mercury and other heavy metals found at the bottom of most of its bogs, lakes and streams to high levels of airborne pollutants contributing to many diagnosed and possibly undiagnosed respiratory problems, the state has become the unwitting dumping ground for many industries found outside of its borders. This is not "The way Life Should Be".

Years of data collection through on site sampling and recording showed elevated NO (Nitrogen Oxide) levels and elevated VOC (volatile organic compound) levels contributing to air quality degradation in downwind states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, Maine included. These elevated pollutants were being generated by industries in certain upwind states in the Midwest and South. As a result of these findings, the Ozone Transport Region was established by the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act. The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) was a multi-state organization created under the Clean Air Act to advise the EPA on transport issues and for developing and implementing regional solutions to the ground level ozone problems. While progress has been made since the OTR's inception, far too many issues still exist to abandon a program that has shown at least some success. The health issues that Maine full time residents are confronted with on a daily basis should be the prime impetus for regulation where private industry or other state governments do not take it upon themselves to do their own policing. Due to Maine's heavily vested interest in the outdoors, if for no other than a monetary reason, Maine should be at the forefront of these so called "tailpipe states" in a leadership role that will insure the programs continued support. If any party is still convinced that we don't already have a problem here in Maine, just read the warnings concerning freshwater fish consumption in IF&W's fishing regulations handbook or the warnings concerning moose liver and kidney consumption. According to the American Lung Association, out of Maine's 16 counties, only 3 counties have monitored or collected air quality data for at least 3 years, while 5 counties have incomplete data for the 3 year period and 8 counties have no monitor collecting data at all. While there are various contributing factors for Maine having the 3rd highest adult asthma rate in the U.S., poor air quality inherited from outside of Maine cannot be overlooked or discounted.

Decisions regarding environmental protection initiatives should have no party lines to follow. The present need for more stringent laws and regulations is the result of poorly conceived and legislated past environmental protection practices. Like other sciences, climatology has progressed as time has allowed for the collection and analysis of evolving data. To systematically deny data driven evidence for the purpose of short term haphazard developmental gain is an egregious practice that is leading us down the irreversible path to long term damage on a global scale. In other words, this is not the time to relax or rescind air quality standards but rather to refine and enforce new and better ones.

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