

Burke, Ruth A

From: Finn Teach <finnteach@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 8:20 AM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: Public Comment for Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 176A(a)(2) Ozone Transport Region Petition

To whom it concerns,

I am writing to express opposition to the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 176A(a)(2) Ozone Transport Region Petition.

Just yesterday, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued an ozone health alert, and warned children, the elderly, people suffering from respiratory illnesses, and healthy individuals who exert themselves to take precautions before going outside. **Poor ozone warnings about poor air quality are becoming more and more frequent.** In 2016, Bangor had 46 days of poor air quality, Portland and South Portland had 26 days, and Lewiston had 24 days. Unclean air isn't restricted to Maine's more urban areas; in fact, Aroostook County had 35 days and Oxford County had 50 days of unclean air. In total, more than half of Maine residents experienced nearly a month or more of days with unclean air in 2016, which is an increase from previous years.

Despite these facts, Governor LePage would like to remove 98% of the state from the Ozone Transport Region. Such a move would exempt our citizens from tougher emissions standards for pollutants that cause smog or ground-level ozone. **DEP's petition is irresponsible public health policy and I strongly oppose it.** We should be doing whatever we can to assure that all Mainers have the opportunity to lead healthy lives - regardless of where they live. By staying the course to reduce air pollution in Maine, we demonstrate our commitment to cleaner air for our most vulnerable residents, model investment and ingenuity, and affirm our dedication to ensuring the health of Maine's people and places. We must do our part, and not blame poor air quality on other states while we ourselves are free to pollute. Let's not put economic benefit before such a basic need as fresh air.

I urge you to remove this petition from consideration.

Finn Teach
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