

October 7, 2015

Administrator Gina McCarthy  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Request to strengthen the Regional Haze Rule

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

On behalf of the 83 undersigned conservation and public interest organizations, and our millions of members and supporters, we urge you to strengthen the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze Rule to restore clean air to national parks and wilderness areas and their neighboring communities. While our groups actively support the Clean Power Plan, stronger ozone standards and other fundamental air programs, we know that these rules alone will not result in the cleanup of many sources of pollution impacting parks and wilderness areas. We implore you to deliver on the nearly 40 year old legislative promise to return natural air quality to the nation's most cherished public places by establishing a clear path to clean air now.

From Yosemite to Everglades National Parks and Shining Rock to John Muir Wildernesses, these truly are some of our nation's greatest places. National parks alone provided sanctuary, retreat, and adventure for over 282 million visitors and 64 million kids last year. Clean air laws require the most iconic national parks and wildernesses to have the best air quality in the country, yet many of them struggle with dirty air that mars scenic views, hurts peoples' lungs, and stresses wildlife and ecosystems.

We commend the administration's leadership on the Regional Haze Rule implementation to-date as it has resulted in critical air quality improvements for national parks, wildernesses, and surrounding communities. Regional haze implementation plans have led to more than 500,000 tons a year of reduced sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions from sources in areas west of the Mississippi River alone. Across the country, haze plans have resulted in more than 52 million metric tons of carbon dioxide reductions annually through industry decisions to retire aged coal plants instead of installing required emission controls.

However, flaws in the rule allow polluters to evade clean up requirements and make uncertain whether and when clean, natural air quality will be achieved. Current projections show that if swifter emission reductions are not required, many national parks and wilderness areas will not achieve the regulatory goal of restoring natural air quality by 2064. In fact, many parks will not achieve the target for decades or centuries after the goal. For example, absent stronger rule requirements, Yosemite will likely miss the 2064 natural air goal by a century.

Strengthening the Regional Haze Rule in strategic ways will ensure that states and polluters are held accountable for reducing their fair share of park and wilderness pollution in the coming years. Clean up of pollution sources like coal plants, vehicles, diesel engines, oil and gas facilities, and other industries that impair park and wilderness air quality are necessary in order

to return clean air to the nation's gems and provide important public health co-benefits especially to disproportionately impacted communities of color, indigenous, and low-income populations.

Specifically, we call on EPA to:

- **Set National Parks and Wildernesses on a Clear Path to Clean Air.** Establish that each state has an independent responsibility to reduce pollution that contributes to air quality impairment at protected places to make reasonable progress towards achieving the national goal.
- **Provide Certainty.** Ensure that natural air quality goals be reached by establishing reasonable progress requirements that specifies what states and polluters must do to clean up their share of each park and wilderness area's pollution for every ten year planning period.
- **Strengthen Accountability.** Measure the success of a state's pollution reduction plan against emissions they can control, which will result in meeting the clean air goal. If a state projects its plan will fall short of the 2064 goal, require a technical demonstration to show that reductions needed to meet the goal are infeasible.
- **Strengthen Federal Land Managers' Voice.** The staff at the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and other federal and tribal agencies know these public lands better than anyone. They need to have a stronger role in the process of identifying pollution problems and developing clean air restoration plans.

In the spirit of the Centennial anniversary of the National Park System in 2016, *please use your leadership to ensure that this essential clean air rule gives national parks, wildernesses, and their millions of visitors the gift of clean, healthy air in the next decade and for generations to come.* We ask that you act promptly, making needed changes to the Regional Haze Rule including reasonable progress requirements to establish a certain clean air future for these special places. By acting to achieve clean air in national parks and wilderness areas, we will make the air safer to breathe and limit air pollution that disproportionately harms certain communities and affects the climate, cities, and all of our families.

Sincerely,

**Acadia Center**  
Dan Sosland  
President  
New York, New York

**Adirondack Mountain Club**  
Neil F. Woodworth  
Executive Director and Counsel  
Albany, New York

**Air Alliance of Houston**  
Adrian Shelley  
Executive Director  
Houston, Texas

**Alaska Community Action on Toxics**  
Pamela K. Miller  
Executive Director  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Appalachian Mountain Club**  
Georgia Murray  
Staff Scientist  
Gorham, New Hampshire

**Appalachian Trail Conservancy**  
Ron Tipton  
Executive Director / CEO  
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

**Bear Creek Council**

Nathan Varley, PhD  
President  
Gardiner, Montana

**Berkshire Environmental Action Team**

Jane Winn  
Executive Director  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

Theodore H. Ames  
President  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

**Buffalo River Watershed Alliance**

Gordon Watkins  
President  
Jasper, Arkansas

**California Council of Land Trusts**

Darla Guenzler, PhD  
Executive Director  
Sacramento, California

**Caloosahatchee River Citizen Association**

Ray Judah  
Board Member  
Fort Myers, Florida

**Center for Biological Diversity**

William Snape  
Senior Counsel  
Washington, DC

**Central California Asthma Collaborative**

Kevin Hamilton, RRT, RCP  
Executive Director  
Fresno, California

**Citizens for a Better Flathead**

Mayre Flowers  
Executive Director  
Kalispell, Montana

**Clean Air Carolina**

Terry Lansdell  
Program Director  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**Clean Air Task Force**

Bruce Hill  
Senior Scientist  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Clean Air Watch**

Frank O'Donnell  
President  
Washington, DC

**Coalition for Clean Air**

Bill Magavern  
Policy Director  
Sacramento, California

**Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life**

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb  
Chair  
New York, New York

**Conservation Law Foundation**

Greg Cunningham  
Vice President and Director, Clean Energy  
and Climate Change  
Portland, Maine

**Dooda (NO) Desert Rock**

Elouise Brown  
President  
Chaco Rio, Navajo Nation, NM

**Earthjustice**

Martin Hayden  
Vice President of Policy and Legislation  
Washington, DC

**EndOil**

Gisele Fong, PhD  
Executive Director  
Long Beach, California

**Energy Action Coalition**

Lydia D. Avila  
Executive Director  
Washington, DC

**Environmental Action Committee of West Marin**

Amy Trainer, JD  
Executive Director  
Point Reyes Station, California

**Environmental Defense Fund**

Graham McCahan  
Senior Attorney  
Boulder, Colorado

**Environmental Integrity Project**

Eric Schaeffer  
Executive Director  
Washington, DC

**Environmental Law and Policy Center**

Howard Lerner  
Executive Director  
Chicago, Illinois

**Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center**

Natalynne DeLapp  
Executive Director  
Arcata, California

**Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**

Paul Danicic  
Executive Director  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Friends of the Columbia Gorge**

Kevin Gorman  
Executive Director  
Portland, Oregon

**GASP**

Stacie M. Propst, PhD  
Executive Director  
Birmingham, Alabama

**Grand Canyon Trust**

Anne Mariah Tapp  
Energy Program Director  
Flagstaff, Arizona

**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**

Rose Chilcoat  
Associate Director  
Durango, Colorado

**Greater Yellowstone Coalition**

Caroline Byrd  
Executive Director  
Bozeman, Montana

**GreenLatinos**

Mark Magaña  
President  
Washington, DC

**Headwaters Montana, Inc.**

Dave Hadden  
Executive Director  
Whitefish, Montana

**HEAL Utah**

Matt Pacenza  
Executive Director  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**Hells Canyon Preservation Council**

Brian Kelly  
Restoration Director  
La Grande, Oregon

**Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance**

Craig M. Benjamin  
Executive Director  
Jackson, Wyoming

**Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers, Inc.**

Daniel Mundy, President  
Broad Channel, New York

**Klamath Forest Alliance**

Kimberly Baker  
Executive Director  
Orleans, California

**Medical Advocates for Healthy Air**

Laura Wenzel  
Program Manager  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**Minnesota Center for Environmental  
Advocacy**

Kevin Reuther  
Legal Director  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Moms Clean Air Force**

Dominique Browning  
Co-Founder and Senior Director  
New York, New York

**Mono Lake Committee**

Geoff McQuilken  
Executive Director  
Lee Vining, California

**Montana Environmental Information  
Center**

Anne Hedges  
Deputy Director  
Helena, Montana

**Mountain True**

Julie Mayfield  
Co-Director  
Asheville, North Carolina

**NAACP**

Hilary O. Shelton  
Director, Washington Bureau  
Senior Vice President for Advocacy and  
Policy  
Washington, DC

**National Parks Conservation Association**

Mark Wenzler  
Senior Vice President of Conservation  
Programs  
Washington, DC

**Natural Resources Defense Council**

John Walke  
Clean Air Director  
Washington, DC

**Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light**

Rev. Kim Morrow  
Executive Director  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**Nebraska Wildlife Federation**

Duane Hovorka  
Executive Director  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**New York-New Jersey Trail Conference**

Edward K. Goodell  
Executive Director  
Mahwah, New Jersey

**North Cascades Conservation Council**

Tom Hammond  
President  
Seattle, Washington

**North Fork Preservation Association**

Debo Powers  
President  
Polebridge, Montana

**Northwest Environmental Defense Center**

Mark Riskedahl  
Executive Director  
Portland, Oregon

**NYC H2O**

Matt Malina  
Director and Founder  
New York, New York

**Olympic Park Associates**

Donna Osseward  
President  
Sequim, Washington

**Oregon Wild**

Erik Fernandez  
Wilderness Coordinator  
Bend, Oregon

**Our Children's Earth Foundation**

Tiffany Schauer  
Executive Director  
San Francisco, California

**Park County Environmental Council**

Michelle Uberuaga Z  
Executive Director  
Livingston, Montana

**Powder River Basin Resource Council**

Gillian Malone  
Chair  
Sheridan, Wyoming

**Public Citizen**

Tom "Smitty" Smith  
Director, Texas Office  
Austin, Texas

**Quiet Use Coalition**

Tom Sobal, Director  
Salida, Colorado

**Rachel Carson Council**

Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
President and CEO  
Bethesda, Maryland

**Respiratory Health Association**

Brian Urbaszewski  
Director, Environmental Health Programs  
Chicago, Illinois

**San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council**

Christine Canaly  
Director  
Alamosa, Colorado

**San Juan Citizens Alliance**

Dan Olson  
Executive Director  
Durango, Colorado

**Sheep Mountain Alliance**

Leigh Robertson  
Executive Director  
Telluride, Colorado

**Sierra Club**

Pat Gallagher  
Legal Director  
San Francisco, California

**Southern Alliance for Clean Energy**

Amelia Shenstone  
Campaigns Director  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Southern Environmental Law Center**

Frank Rambo  
Clean Energy and Air Program Leader  
Charlottesville, Virginia

**Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance**

Steve Bloch  
Legal Director  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**SustainUS**

Adam Hasz, Chair  
Washington, DC

**The City Project**

Robert Garcia  
Founding Director and Counsel  
Los Angeles, California

**The Wilderness Society**

Chase Huntley  
Senior Director of Policy and Government  
Affairs, Energy and Climate Campaign  
Washington, DC

**Utah Physicians for a Healthy  
Environment**

Tim Wagner  
Executive Director  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**Voyageurs National Park Association**

Christina Hausman  
Executive Director  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Washington Wild**

Tom Uniack  
Conservation Director  
Seattle, Washington

**Western Clean Energy Campaign**

Justin Wilson  
Director  
Denver, Colorado

**Wyoming Outdoor Council**  
Gary Wilmot  
Executive Director  
Lander, Wyoming

cc: Janet McCabe, EPA  
Deborah Jordan, EPA  
Christy Goldfuss, CEQ