

JASON SMITH

8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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INSULAR AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2508

May 5, 2014

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The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

As your agency continues down the path of considering new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (“NAAQS”), I want you to be fully aware of the economic impact that finalizing new standards may have on my district, the state of Missouri, and this country. Actions have consequences, and all too often the EPA makes decisions to the detriment of my constituents and the manufacturers, farms, and other small businesses that employ them. Taken into context with your efforts to punish the over 29,000 households in my district who rely on wood stoves for heating, to raise electrical utility rates by proposing regulations for new coal-fired power plants that are commercially unattainable, and the recent proposal to regulate virtually all “waters of the United States” instead of simply “navigable waters” the added negative effect to our economy of new NAAQS is unfathomable.

Missouri’s Department of Natural Resources operates 23 ozone monitors. For the last three complete years of data, 2011-2013, every monitor would have been out of compliance with either a 60 ppb or a 65 ppb standard. Your own agency estimated in 2011 that the cost of lowering the NAAQS to 60 ppb from its current level of 75 ppb could cost the economy as much as \$90 billion. Lowering the standard to 65 ppb could cost as much as \$44 billion. Lowering the standard to 70 ppb would put 17 of the 23 monitors in Missouri into “non-attainment” and potentially cost the country \$25 billion. In my state alone, the cost of implementing new standards could be as high as 1.9 billion dollars.

Across the nation, lowering the standards has the potential to detrimentally impact manufacturing, natural resources and mining, and construction jobs. In Missouri, more than 150,000 jobs in monitored counties have the potential to be affected. Many of the good-paying jobs in Missouri, and in my district, are provided by manufacturers, a sector that would be hit hard by further regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency. Worse, areas in “non-attainment” often require expensive blends of gasoline, vehicle emissions tests, and job-killing regulations that prevent businesses from expanding or even locating in a “non-attainment” area.

Industries impacted in Missouri collectively contribute over 25 billion dollars to our State's GDP. As this process proceeds, I hope you will take into consideration the disastrous effects all of this new regulation will have on our country. The current NAAQS standard of 75 ppb should be left alone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Smith", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Jason Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS