

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned associations represent thousands of members that generate trillions of dollars in economic activity and employ millions of workers across this country. We urge you to pass a Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recently finalized rule that unnecessarily tightened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), which will have an adverse impact on economic growth.

Protecting our environment and improving public health are priorities for our members. Quality of life encompasses complex economic and social considerations. Our members are committed to the communities in which they live and serve, and we are taking bold steps to protect air quality. Through tireless investment and innovation, we have sharply reduced PM<sub>2.5</sub>. As a result, industry in the United States has some of the cleanest and most efficient operations in the world, driven by technology innovation and environmental stewardship.

Thanks to technologies developed by industries, our nation's air quality has significantly improved, with a 42% reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> since 2000.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, recent analyses conducted by the EPA found that only 16% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions are from industrial processes or stationary fuel consumption.<sup>2</sup> The vast majority of emissions are from sources well outside of our control, with fires, dirt roads, and other nonpoint sources accounting for approximately 84% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions.<sup>3</sup>

Despite this progress, EPA reduced the standards by 25% -- from 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 9.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This puts innovation and economic growth at risk, making it more difficult to create jobs, build cutting-edge factories and lead the world in the development of products that will shape modern life in the decades ahead. By setting the standard at what are essentially background levels in some parts of the country, this rule will make it more difficult for states to provide permits for the construction of new facilities or expansions of existing factories.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality–National Summary, *available at* <https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/air-quality-national-summary>.

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, Overview of Particulate Matter (PM) Air Quality in the United States (Updated June 29, 2023), *available at* [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/PM\\_2022.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/PM_2022.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter, May 2022, [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/Final%20Policy%20Assessment%20for%20the%20Reconsideration%20of%20the%20PM%20NAAQS\\_May2022\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/Final%20Policy%20Assessment%20for%20the%20Reconsideration%20of%20the%20PM%20NAAQS_May2022_0.pdf)

The new standard will also put the United States at a disadvantage by hurting our ability to compete on the world stage. Our global competitors have adopted standards that are less stringent than the EPA rule and are phased in over a much longer time frame. For example, the European Union has a PM2.5 standard of 25, with proposals to lower it to 10 by 2030. The United Kingdom has a target of lowering the standard to 10 by 2040. The current standard in China is 35. This puts the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage by making it more difficult to construct or expand factories at a time when firms are actively seeking to diversify their supply chains and spurring new industrial investments.

Congress must act to stop this harmful rule before it takes effect. Resolutions of disapproval have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to address this rule. S.J.Res. 65 was introduced by Minority Leader McConnell and H.J.Res. 117 was introduced by Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA). We urge the House of Representatives and the Senate to bring them up for a vote.

Americans deserve a strong economy and a healthy environment. We urge Congress to pass a resolution of disapproval addressing the EPA's actions as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

National Association of Manufacturers  
Alabama Forestry Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Coatings Association  
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM)  
American Foundry Society  
American Iron and Steel Institute  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Wood Council  
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)  
Associated Industries of Missouri  
Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire  
CIBO  
Composite Panel Association  
ECIA – Electronic Components Industry Association  
Essential Minerals Association  
Flexible Packaging Association  
Forging Industry Association  
Foundry Association of Michigan  
Glass Packaging Institute  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Indiana Cast Metals Association  
Industrial Fasteners Institute  
Institute of Makers of Explosives  
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
Manufacturing Technology Deployment Group  
Metals Service Center Institute  
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association  
National Mining Association

National Propane Gas Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association  
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association  
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society  
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers  
North American Millers' Association  
Ohio Cast Metals Association  
Pennsylvania Foundry Association  
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
PRINTING United Alliance  
Portland Cement Association  
Railway Supply Institute  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)  
Steel Manufacturers Association  
Texas Cast Metals Association  
The Aluminum Association  
The Carpet and Rug Institute  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Hardwood Federation  
The Recycled Materials Association  
The Sulphur Institute  
Treated Wood Council  
US Chamber of Commerce  
Vinyl Institute  
Window & Door Manufacturers Association  
Wisconsin Cast Metals Association