

**Opening Statement of Chairman Fred Upton
Full Committee Markup of H.R. 4775, the Ozone Standards Implementation
Act and H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act
May 17, 2016**

Our ongoing effort to protect jobs, the economy, and public health continues with this markup of two important bipartisan bills, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016 and the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016.

Ozone is one of the real success stories of the Clean Air Act. The heavy summer smog over Los Angeles, Houston, New York and other cities in the 1960s helped spur the 1970 Clean Air Act. Since that time, ozone has been reduced by over 30 percent nationwide and considerably more in trouble spots like LA.

EPA's stringent 2008 standard will drive down ozone levels even more in the years ahead. Unfortunately, EPA did not issue the necessary implementing regulations until last year, so states are off to a very late start implementing these standards. Complicating matters, EPA has decided to set another, even more stringent ozone standard and is now forcing states to simultaneously comply with both.

Mr. Olson's commonsense solution, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016, would implement the two ozone rules sequentially instead of simultaneously. Let's get the 2008 standard under our belts first – it's that simple. Under this approach, the '08 standards and other federal regulations already in place would continue to bring down ozone levels until 2024, when the newer standard would then be implemented. The bill also revises the statutory requirement that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards be reviewed every five years, which has proven to be unworkable. Instead, it sets the mandatory review period at ten years, but gives the EPA administrator the discretion to review the standards earlier if necessary.

Piling the latest ozone standards on top of existing standards that have not yet been fully implemented will have no significant environmental benefit. Further, combining the two rules will discourage promising job-creating projects in Michigan and many other parts of the country. A business looking to open or expand would be hard-pressed to do so in an area under the threat of nonattainment and all of the extra hoops, permits, and costs that come along with it. The very threat of nonattainment is an economic deterrent.

There are also areas in southwest Michigan, Allegan County in particular, where you could remove all of the human activity and the region would still be in non-attainment because of the ozone generated across Lake Michigan in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Gary, Indiana. Mr. Olson's bill restores some much needed commonsense to regulating ozone

We also will consider Mr. Latta's Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has the expertise and resources to develop the regulatory framework for innovative advanced reactor technologies that is critical to our nuclear future. We can't allow for potential breakthroughs to be thwarted because regulators are only comfortable dealing with prior generation technologies. This bipartisan bill helps give us an NRC that is better prepared for the present and the future, and an American nuclear industry that stays a world leader and job creator.

We've got two balanced, thoughtful bills that are good for jobs, good for the economy, and good for public health, and I urge their approval.

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