

June 27, 2017

The Honorable  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Walden and Members of E&C Committee:

The American Farm Bureau Federation urges you to support H.R. 806, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act. This important piece of legislation would provide for the reasonable implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone by aligning the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards through a phased schedule that provides time to implement already-planned controls.

EPA has established NAAQS for ozone, a regulation that has the potential to affect normal farming and ranching practices. States, along with business and industry, have been working hard to improve the nation's air quality for many years. Indeed, ozone levels have decreased 33 percent since 1980, and those levels will continue to decline as states implement the 2008 ozone standards. H.R. 806 would allow for the sensible and efficient alignment of the implementation deadlines for the 2015 and 2008 ozone standards so that states have time to implement the 2008 ozone standard first, while still improving air quality. Otherwise, states may have to unnecessarily expend time and resources trying to implement two ozone standards simultaneously, and state and local areas may be faced with adverse impacts in terms of stymied economic development and lost job creation.

Stringent ozone standards could place serious restrictions on farmers, increasing input costs for things like electricity, fuel, fertilizer and equipment. Further, as ozone standards are ratcheted down closer to levels that exist naturally, more farmers will be forced to abide by restrictions on equipment use and land management, making it more expensive to operate.

We also support provisions in H.R. 806 that tie related air permitting requirements to this phased schedule. Doing so will prevent efforts by local businesses and manufacturing to expand and grow jobs from getting caught up in regulatory red tape. Likewise, we believe that the bill's ten-year review cycles are more feasible than the current schedule to review air standards. This reform will allow for environmental improvements to occur while bringing more certainty to regulators and the regulated community.

Farm Bureau supports H.R. 806, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act, and encourages you to support the legislation as it is considered by the committee.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall  
President