



October 21, 2015

House Committee on Science, Space & Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Fax (202) 226-0113

Re: Hearing on EPA's 2015 Ozone Standard: Concerns Over Science and Implementation

The Central Valley Air Quality (CVAQ) Coalition requests the following comments be included as the House Committee on Science, Space & Technology considers the science and implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s newly released ozone standard of 70 ppb.

The Central Valley Air Quality (CVAQ) Coalition is a partnership of more than 70 member organizations committed to creating clean air in the San Joaquin Valley of California since 2003. Our coalition originally advocated for the most health protective possible standard of 60ppb. We urge the committee to support the implementation of the 70 ppb standard, which represents a level of health protection that is long overdue and at the very least it is in the right direction.

On October 22, 2015 the committee will hear from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), Seyed Sadredin. It is important that the committee understand Mr. Sadredin's perspective and his efforts on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley. Our coalition believes he does not represent the public; instead he represents interests of industry and Agriculture in our Valley. While he represents a public health agency, the Valley Air Board members, whose political campaigns and personal income are directly tied to our polluting industries, determine the fate of his position. Thus, his perspective is biased.

Mr. Sadredin advocates for the interests of business, even while our Valley, with over 4 million residents, has the highest asthma rates in California. He claims businesses have done all they could and cleaning our air is the responsibility of the individual. This stance was demonstrated when he convinced the Valley, that the EPA levied a \$29 million fee via a DMV surcharge on all motorists, for not meeting an ozone standard. He failed to clarify that the decision was made by himself and the Valley Air Board, to place the financial burden on all Valley motorists, rather than business. For the past ten years, our coalition has debated with Mr. Sadredin on strategies

for clean air. The District has ignored significant sources of ozone pollution, such as volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from dairies and Oil and Gas operations, and they have also failed to implement aggressive measures on agricultural equipment and mobile sources within their purview.

Rather than look for additional control measures, Mr. Sadredin has employed tactics of scapegoating. The Air District has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars into examining ozone pollution traveling to our Valley from Asia, while ignoring the majority of our homegrown pollution. In recent years, the Air District has blamed the drought for our bad air, taking no responsibility for the consequences of failed air quality plans from previous years. Currently, the blame falls on the EPA and the Clean Air Act, claiming the Act is antiquated and EPA sets unrealistic standards. Without strong guidance from the EPA and the Clean Air Act, the Valley Air District representing the air basin with the worst air pollution in the nation, would define its own path to clean air with little regard for public health.

The Air District's decisions and inaction have real and lasting impacts on our health. Our children are regularly kept indoors from recess and sports activities and we lose billions of dollars every year in missed school and work days, visits to the emergency room and health care costs. We learn more everyday of the impacts of air pollution on our health and our Valley has become numb to the information, because Mr. Sadredin and the Valley Air Board disregard it, blame external factors and have failed to find a balance between supporting business and protecting public health.

Our coalition urges you to support the EPA's decision of implementing a standard of 70 ppb and to hear Mr. Sadredin with skepticism. Mr. Sadredin does not represent the interests of Valley residents and Valley businesses have not done enough. On the other hand, residents have endured enough – decades of poor health and misinformation with no accountability. We need your help in guiding our local leaders to protect our health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Weller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dolores Weller  
CVAQ Director