



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 8, 2020

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Members of the 116th Congress:

The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of EPA. As a country, we have made remarkable strides over that time ensuring a clean environment for our citizens. Enclosed is a copy of EPA's recently released 2019 Air Quality Trends Report. This report tracks the nation's progress in air quality through 2019. I am happy to report that in 2019 the national average concentrations for every criteria pollutant were down to some of the lowest levels on record. Additionally, since the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 through the end of 2019, emissions have declined by 77 percent and the U.S. economy grew by 285 percent.

Despite accusations from some in Congress to the contrary, over the past three years (2017-2019), the combined emission of criteria pollutants and their precursors dropped seven percent. Under President Trump's leadership, EPA will continue its mission of protecting public health and the environment by ensuring the continued downward trend of pollutants in our nation's air.

Important strides in air quality have been demonstrated for the criteria pollutants over the past three years. From 2017 to 2019, EPA reports the following drops in these pollutants: nitrogen oxide is down ten percent; fine particulate matter is down one percent; sulfur dioxide is down sixteen percent; carbon monoxide is down six percent; and volatile organic compounds are down three percent.

As a result of these falling emissions, in 2019 we saw a significant improvement in air quality. From 2018 to 2019, the number of days listed as unhealthy for sensitive groups dropped by forty percent as the amount of criteria pollutants in our air continued to fall: carbon monoxide fell ten percent; the three-month average for lead fell twenty percent, which maintains the steep decline we have seen since 2010; ozone fell six percent; nitrogen dioxide fell four percent; the 24-hour standard for large particulates fell seventeen percent; the 24-hour standard for fine particulates fell nineteen percent; and sulfur dioxide fell six percent.

These steep declines in the criteria pollutants found in our nation's air shows our commitment to providing better air quality for all Americans. As we approach EPA's 50th anniversary in December, we can proudly say that Americans now have significantly cleaner air, land, and water than in the past. The Trump Administration is proving that environmental protection and economic

health can go hand-in-hand. I hope that each of your offices will work collaboratively with EPA to continue the positive work of the Agency in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew R. Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew R. Wheeler