

Summary of the testimony of Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality in the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. September 19, 2023.

I will provide a state perspective on EPA's recently proposed revisions to the annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter PM 2.5 and provide some context about the impacts of those changes to how states must regulate business and manufacturing within our potential non-attainment areas in the near future.

As co-regulators with EPA, states play a key role in implementing the NAAQS to reduce harmful pollutants, improve air quality, and ultimately protect public health in their state.

PM2.5 emissions in Utah are dominated by sources that the state is unable to regulate (transported emissions, fires and mobile sources). The current structure of the Clean Air Act and implementing EPA regulations lead to overregulation of sources that the state has the authority to control. EPA should better address emissions under trier control before requiring costly implementation efforts by the states that will be ineffective.

Examples related to the EPA's proposed changes to the annual standard for PM2.5 in the context of the mandatory requirements of the Clean Air Act and recommendations that were included in state comments on the proposal will be highlighted.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality is committed to protecting the health of our citizens through attaining air quality standards. We work closely with our communities and impacted businesses to reduce emissions while providing the goods and services necessary for a vibrant and growing economy.