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June 12, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Energy and Commerce Committee
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Energy and Commerce Committee
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone,

I am writing to urge your support for the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017 (H.R. 806), introduced by Representative Pete Olson. This bipartisan bill extends the implementation timeframe of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and increases the EPA review cycle from 5 years to 10 years. This would help to prevent unnecessary overlap between implementation of the 2008 and 2015 Ozone NAAQS and accomplish the goals of both sets of standards without unreasonable delay or economic consequences. These changes would be crucial for our industry and we request your consideration and support.

PCA, founded in 1916, is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America's cement manufacturers. PCA members represent 92 percent of the United States' cement production capacity and have facilities in all 50 states. Portland cement is the fundamental ingredient in concrete. The Association promotes safety, sustainability, and innovation in all aspects of construction, fosters continuous improvement in cement manufacturing and distribution, and promotes economic growth and sound infrastructure investment.

Even though states are still working to attain the 2008 standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) significantly lowered the ozone NAAQS in 2015. This considerable change could place more than half of all cement facilities in the U.S. in an ozone 'nonattainment area' for the first time - a designation that threatens jobs and economic development. It is important to note that despite the changes to allowable ozone parts per billion being implemented in 2008, states were given no guidelines with respect to these implementations. Therefore, it is unrealistic to then implement more changes stacked on top of the retroactive changes.

The Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017 allows state regulators and companies better adapt the changes by extending the implementation timeline for the 2015 NAAQS for ozone. This simple change would save jobs while allowing emissions reductions to occur on an achievable schedule. And by making other needed changes to the NAAQS program, the legislation would help states avoid future requirements that pit clean air against economic growth.

These common-sense changes to the NAAQS will promote economic growth as well as curtail redundancy in environmental policy. PCA supports the Committees' efforts to advance the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017. Please feel free to contact Rachel Derby, PCA's Vice President of Government Affairs, at [REDACTED] for further information on this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

A. Todd Johnston
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs