

TIM KRIEGER, MEMBER
57TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
B-14 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202057
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2057
PHONE: (717) 260-6146
FAX: (717) 260-6501

tkrieger@pahousegop.com
www.repkrieger.com



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DISTRICT OFFICES:
101 EHALT STREET
SUITE 105
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
PHONE: (724) 834-6400
FAX: (724) 834-6799

17 SOUTH SIXTH STREET
YOUNGWOOD, PA 15697

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
AND ENERGY
JUDICIARY
LIQUOR CONTROL
STATE GOVERNMENT

June 10, 2011

Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, Mail code 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Sent via fax: (202) 501-1450

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The purpose of my letter is to express my opposition to any reduction to the primary ozone standard, especially as the standard was just reduced a short time ago. The 2008 mandate has yet to be attained by a large number of U.S. communities, including the area I represent in the Pennsylvania legislature, Westmoreland County. An even lower standard would impose undue economic hardship on our region, at a time when we need to encourage economic growth and job creation.

Pennsylvania has made great strides in air quality, as any longtime resident will tell you. The state has adopted energy portfolio standards that require 18 percent of electricity sold to come from alternative sources. Power plants have been instructed to reduce mercury emissions by 90 percent. Electric power companies have invested \$10 billion in new pollution controls and other steps to reduce air contamination.

Even so, Westmoreland County still struggles to meet present air quality standards. We are challenged by many forces beyond our control, including topography, weather, prevailing winds and a geographic location that subjects us to a steady stream of air pollutants from Midwest power plants, the Ohio River Valley, and industries and vehicles in other areas.

It seems blatantly unfair to impose even more stringent requirements on areas like mine knowing full well there is little realistic chance that they can be met. Our communities, local governments, small businesses, industries and workers will all suffer because of a heavy-handed federal regulatory mandate that they will never be able to satisfy.

Lowering the ozone limit would have direct, negative effects. A standard of 60 ppb would saddle Pennsylvania with estimated attainment costs of more than \$50 billion over the next ten years. Our state gross product would be reduced by \$32.5 billion and by our estimates, 350,000 jobs would be lost.

We cannot afford this kind of economic blow. Pennsylvania's level of unemployment has dropped but we are still far above the 4.6 percent rate of February 2008. We continue to lose our young people and far too many of our workers are underemployed, struggling to make enough to care for their families.

Lowering the ozone standard could make things much worse. I strongly urge you to reconsider this policy and leave the ozone limit at its present level.

Very truly yours,



Representative Tim Krieger
Pennsylvania's 57th Legislative District

CC: White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, Fax (202) 395-3692
U.S. Senator Patrick Toomey, Fax (202) 228-0284
U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr., Fax (202) 228-0604

###

SWPA air quality-

http://www.pittsburghquarterly.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=112&Itemid=217

PA unemp - http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_730688.html