



July 24, 2017

Senator John Barrasso
Senator Tom Carper
Chair and Ranking Members
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
U.S. Senate

Dear Senators,

We are writing on behalf of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health – a group of American medical societies representing 450,000 physicians—over half the doctors in the country. The mission of the Consortium is to inform the public and policymakers about the serious harms to the health of Americans caused by climate change, and about the potential to improve the health of all Americans health by responding to climate change. It is clear that a strong ozone standard is important to the health of all who breathe the air in every Congressional District in the U.S. As the average temperatures rise, there will be more days on which ozone levels will rise—even without additional emissions from point sources and transportation.

Weakening the ozone standard will harm the health of Americans. In the 2015 review of the ozone standard, EPA examined an extensive body of scientific evidence demonstrating that ozone causes lung inflammation, leading to increased rates of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and premature deaths. A growing body of research indicates that ozone may also cause harm to developing fetuses.

Weakening the ozone standard will harm patients and the public at large, and will increase health care costs. The American people – indeed, people everywhere – deserve clean air. Maintaining a strong ozone standard is essential. Please prioritize the health of your constituents and do not weaken the ozone standard.

If you have any questions about the Consortium, please contact Mona Sarfaty, MD MPH FAAFP, Consortium Director, Fairfax, Virginia, 703-993-2086 or by email at msarfaty@gmu.edu.

Sincerely,

The American College of Physicians

The American Academy of Family Physicians

The American Academy of Pediatrics

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

The American Medical Association

The American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology



The American College of Preventive Medicine

The American Geriatrics Society

The Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine

The American Association of Community Psychiatrists

The American Telemedicine Association

The National Medical Association

The Society of General Internal Medicine

American College of Emergency Physicians, CA chapter