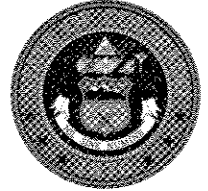


STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

January 26, 2010

Andrew Spielman
Chairman
Regional Air Quality Council
1445 Market Street, Suite 260
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Chairman Spielman:

Thank you and your fellow Regional Air Quality Council Members for agreeing to tackle a continuing challenge: developing an effective proposed plan for reducing ozone concentrations along the Front Range. Your efforts are a key part of our state's commitment to protecting human health and making this a great place to raise a family.

As you know, just recently the RAQC completed the process to develop a plan for bringing Denver and the northern part of Colorado into compliance with the ozone standard that applied at the time. Just this month the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a further strengthening of the 8 hour ozone air quality standard, which had already been tightened to .075 parts per million (ppm) in 2008. The new standard (proposed to a level in the range of .06-.07 parts per million) is to be finalized by EPA in August of this year.

Among the most important tasks of the RAQC will be to develop a proposed plan by mid- 2012 for meeting the new EPA standard so that the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission can consider and approve the plan in late 2012. In turn, the approved plan will need to be submitted to the General Assembly for Legislative Review in 2013 and sent on to EPA the following December.

As you begin your work, it is important to remember that Colorado has always risen to these challenges. Indeed, Colorado has made significant progress in reducing ozone levels, improving air quality in our parks and wilderness areas, and reducing nitrogen deposition in Rocky Mountain National Park. Nonetheless, meeting the new ozone standard will be a challenge, due in large part to a growing Front Range population, associated increases in "vehicle miles traveled" and industrial sector growth. I anticipate that that in order to achieve the new ozone standard we will need to consider strategies for reducing emissions from stationary sources, the transportation sector and other sources. My Executive Order (B 002 09) of March 2009 spells this out in more detail.

I urge you to consider a wide range of cost-effective measures for addressing our air quality challenges and to do so with as much collaboration and creativity as possible. This means considering all the options for reducing vehicle miles traveled that reduce ozone precursor emissions, including those involving principles of sustainability and land use, as well as options involving vehicle and fuel technology and industrial air pollution sources. I further urge you to take a look at the ancillary benefits of these options to Colorado and the Front Range, including meeting our greenhouse gas emission goals, reducing energy consumption and addressing broader public health issues, urban sprawl, quality of life and economic sustainability concerns.

This very important effort will require a significant commitment of the RAQC and all interested stakeholders. Thank you in advance for your efforts to develop concrete, reliable and fair measures for achieving necessary ozone reductions necessary to protect the health of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ritter, Jr." in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor