March 26, 2015

Dear Members of the United States Senate:

On behalf of a broad range of manufacturing, energy, agriculture, construction and transportation industries employing millions of Americans, we continue to remain deeply concerned about the harmful impacts that EPA’s ozone proposals have on local economies. Under the 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground level ozone, to the 2008 ozone standards, to EPA’s current proposed revision, many areas remain and will continue to be pushed into “nonattainment” under a lower NAAQS. As a result, past and proposed revisions have made it harder to attract industry, begin new manufacturing projects, and sustain growth.

We strongly urge you to support Senator Thune’s Amendment #743 to the Senate budget resolution. It would direct budget dollars to EPA so that the Agency can focus on the important work of implementing the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Much needs to be done; portions of 26 states covering a population of 120 million still do not meet the 0.075 ppm standard.¹

We strongly value clean air and would note that air quality continues to improve. Between 1980 and 2013, total emissions of the six principal air pollutants fell 62 percent and ozone concentrations fell 33 percent, even as U.S. gross domestic product grew 145 percent. Furthermore, the full extent of emission reductions from the current ozone NAAQS is not yet known. Voluntary and regulatory programs will continue to reduce ozone concentrations through 2030.

We hope you will vote “yes” on Senator Thune’s amendment. Your support will help create a level playing field while directing EPA to focus on helping the states attain the current ozone standards.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
American Forest and Paper Association
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
America’s Natural Gas Alliance
American Petroleum Institute
American Wood Council
National Association of Manufacturers
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

¹ See EPA’s Green Book for the 2008 Ozone Standard: http://www.epa.gov/airquality/greenbk/hntc.html. (Note that the Baton Rouge Area was declared in attainment with the 2008 Ozone NAAQS, effective June 14, 2014. 79 Fed. Reg. 21,139, April 14, 2014)