

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Regan:

We write to express our staunch opposition of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) final rule. We urge you to immediately rescind the final rule that will have devastating economic consequences to our Congressional districts while providing minimal real benefit in return.

Your agency announced the reconsideration of the 2020 PM NAAQS final action in June 2021 as a result of President Biden's Executive Order 13990 "*Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*." This executive order initiated review of all agency decisions from the previous administration. Given that there is no new science to initiate a reconsideration, this administration has shown the American people that a rush-to-green agenda is far more important than American jobs and the economy.

With 700,000 comments from a myriad of perspectives, the EPA is ignoring the sheer impact this rule will have on American industries including, but not limited to forestry, manufacturing, and recreation. In fact, these exact concerns were detailed in October of last year, when over 70 manufacturing organizations sent a letter to White House Chief of Staff Jeffrey Zients outlining issues with the proposal.

Lowering PM standards from 12 µg/m³ to 9 µg/m³ will put one-third of the U.S. population in areas of nonattainment. Not only that, but businesses will be forced to cut through red tape to satisfy new permitting requirements, impacting jobs and recreational activities as well as subsequently the economy, if they can even obtain permits at all. EPA's own data shows that PM_{2.5} concentrations have dropped 42 percent since 2000¹. A drop that was driven by major emissions reductions by power sector and mobile source reductions. These data show what we already know – that America's air is cleaner than it has been in decades and is going to be even cleaner in the future.

Not only has the EPA lowered these standards to unattainable levels, your agency is expecting states to submit new implementation plans, without updated implementation guidance, to demonstrate they have the "necessary" clean air programs and authorities to meet the newly revised standards. All permits thereafter must be submitted at the new level, giving industries effectively no time to adjust and meet these ridiculous new standards. An effective date of 60 calendar days within publishing of the Federal Register will create permitting gridlock, force

¹U.S. EPA, Our Nation's Air: Trends Through 2022, https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2023/#air_trends

industries out of compliance, and result in small businesses shutting their doors due to an aggressive regulatory regime.

Time and again, this Administration has put the extreme environmental agenda above the needs of individuals, communities, and businesses that drive the economy of our Nation. The harm that your agency will be inflicting on our Congressional districts through this final rule is untenable. We call for the immediate rescission of this rule and for the EPA to reconsider their decision while reviewing NAAQS under the regular five-year review schedule.

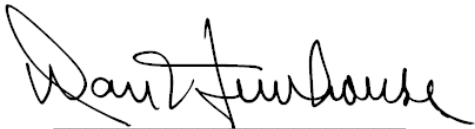
Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress



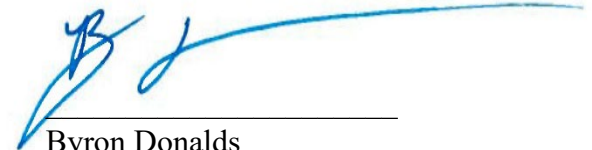
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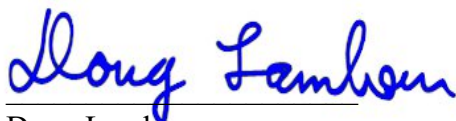
Byron Donalds
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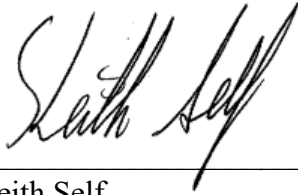
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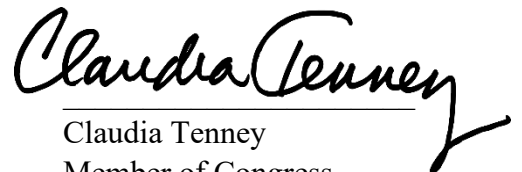
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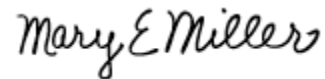
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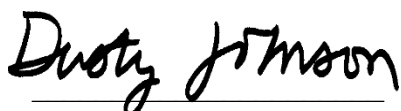
Alex Mooney
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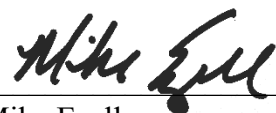
Austin Scott
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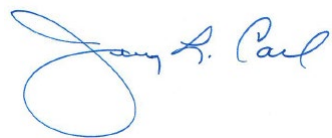
Glenn Grothman
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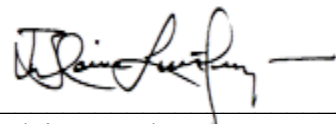
Jerry Carl
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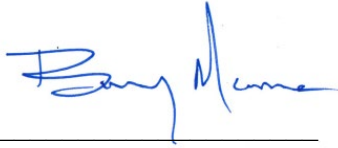
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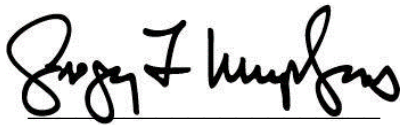
Rob Wittman
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Matt Rosendale
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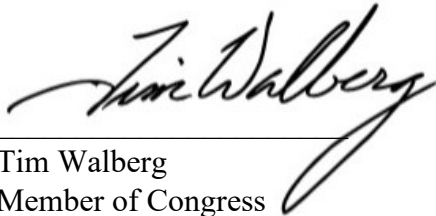
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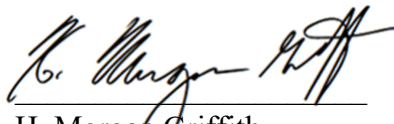
Russ Fulcher
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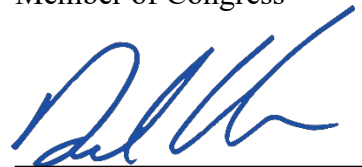
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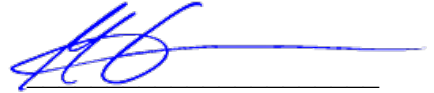
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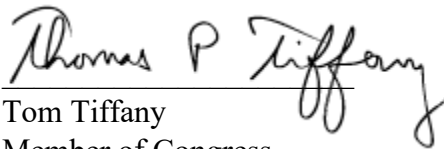
John H. Rutherford
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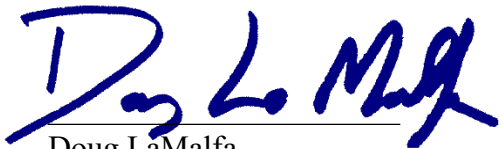
Brad Finstad
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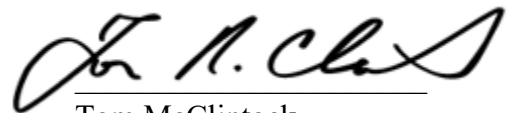
Tom Tiffany
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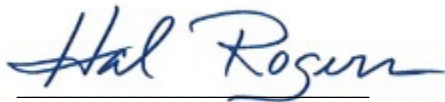
Ashley Hinson
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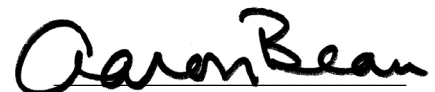
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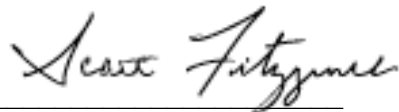
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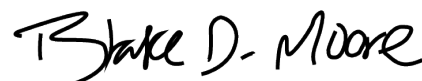
Jake LaTurner
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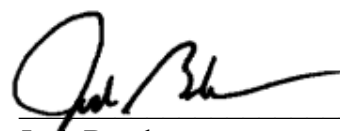
Ron Estes
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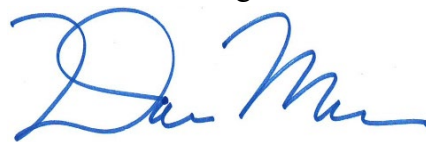
Blake Moore
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
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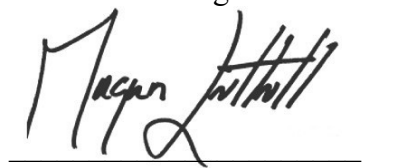
Frank D. Lucas
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Celeste Maloy
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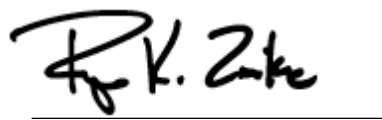
Mike Simpson
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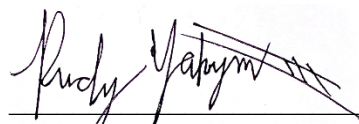
Morgan Luttrell
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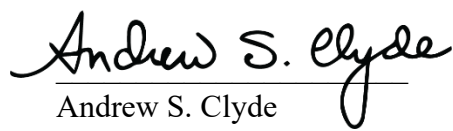
Mark Amodei
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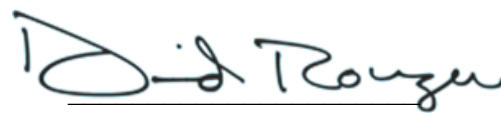
Rudy Yakym III
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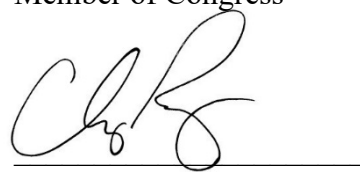
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Cliff Bentz
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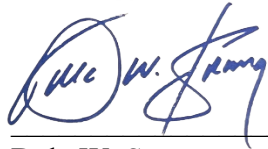
Michael Guest
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Mike Flood
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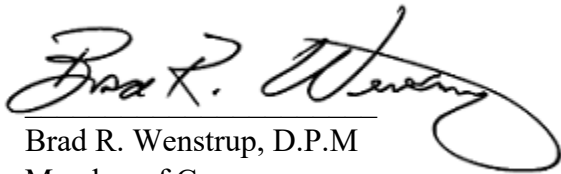
Dale W. Strong
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Eli Crane
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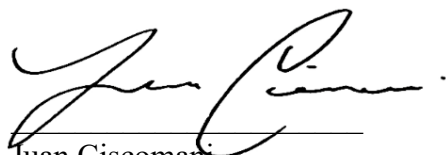
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Bryan Steil
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Juan Ciscomani
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Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



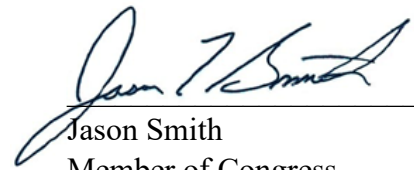
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



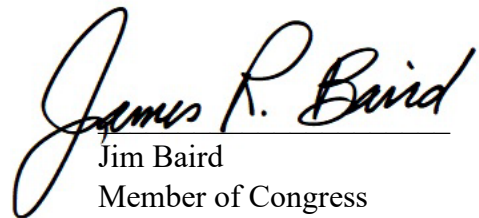
Ben Cline
Member of Congress



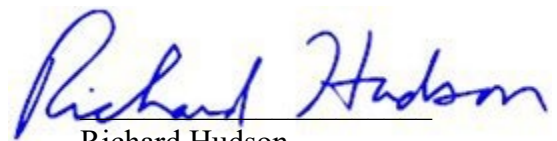
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
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Jim Baird
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Richard Hudson
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