HARRIET M, HAGEMAN

AT-LARGE, WYOMING

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIR, INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2024

Congress of the United States

222 SOUTH GILLETTE AVENUE GILLETTE, WY 82716 PHONE: (307) 228–6399

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-5000 PHONE: (202) 225-2311

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE

CHEYENNE, WY 82001 PHONE: (307) 829-3299

100 EAST 8 STREET

CASPER, WY 82601 PHONE: (307) 261-6595

Ms. KC Becker Regional Administrator U.S. EPA, Region 8 1595 Wynkoop St. Denver, CO 80202-1129

Subject: Request for Extension of Comment Period and Public Hearing for Proposed Disapproval of Wyoming's Regional Haze Round 2 State Plan

Dear Ms. Becker,

On August 1, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the "Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; Wyoming; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period" (89 Fed. Reg. 63030) in the Federal Register. I am writing to express concerns with EPA's proposal to partially disapprove Wyoming's Regional Haze Round 2 State Plan (the Plan). I request an extension of the comment period and the scheduling of a public hearing.

Wyoming spent more than five years—reflected in more than 2,700 pages of technical analyses—that makes up Wyoming's comprehensive Plan to satisfy EPA's requirements included in the Regional Haze Rule for the second planning period. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) has done everything in its power to work with the EPA even amidst the promulgation of a firehose of overbearing regulations, including but not limited to EPA's Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 Standards, working on a state plan to eliminate Greenhouse Gas Emissions, EPA's National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Coal-and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Stream Generating Units, and a host of other time-consuming and resource-constraining projects.

WDEQ conveyed that it did not anticipate significant opposition to the EPA's review of the Plan. Consequently, the current timeframe for public comment is inadequate for all stakeholders to fully understand and address the complex issues at hand. To ensure a thorough and transparent review process, I urge the EPA to extend the comment period by 30 days. This extension is crucial for ensuring that the final decision is based on comprehensive input and reflects the interests and concerns of all stakeholders.

Additionally, I request that the EPA hold a public hearing to facilitate direct engagement between the agency, WDEQ, and the public. A public hearing will offer a platform for stakeholders to present their views, ask questions, and receive clarifications—something that all affected parties deserve to have after receiving the shocking news of the EPA's partial disapproval to the Plan. I look forward to the EPA's honoring of this important request.

Sincerely,

Harriet M. Hageman

Member of Congress