

Burke, Ruth A

From: David Betts <bettsdavid@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 12:23 PM
To: Crawford, Jeff S
Subject: Keep Maine's Air Clean!

Dear Jeffrey Crawford,

Securing and maintaining clean air and water is a constant challenge that will never really end as a larger population with an increasing appetite for foods and consumer goods has the effect of moving the goal posts; hence we have days with air quality alerts and occasions where water quality fails to meet safe levels in spite of past efforts. It is the basic nature of the problem that it requires continual efforts.

Giving up on those efforts is not a viable option and only serves to satisfy rent seeking individuals and corporations while diminishing the quality of the environment crucial to the well-being of people and wildlife.

I oppose the Department of Environmental Protection's petition to take most of Maine out of the Ozone Transport Region. Weakening Maine's participation in this agreement is the wrong direction for Maine, including the fact that it creates an opening for other states to leave as well, resulting in more ozone pollution for Maine. Given our geographic position, we need strong clean air protections in those upwind states, and in order to achieve that, we need to stay fully committed to this agreement. Maine has some of the highest rates of asthma in the entire country, and we sit at the tailpipe of the nation. We need to continue to move forward on clean air protections instead of backward. Thank you.

Sincerely,
David Betts

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