

Burke, Ruth A

From: Crawford, Jeff S
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Burke, Ruth A
Subject: FW: Comment on Ozone Transport Region (OTR) pursuant to Clean Air Act Section 176A(a)(2)

From: Gail Carlson [mailto:gcarlson@colby.edu]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 9:47 PM
To: Crawford, Jeff S <Jeff.S.Crawford@maine.gov>
Subject: Comment on Ozone Transport Region (OTR) pursuant to Clean Air Act Section 176A(a)(2)

August 10, 2018

Jeffrey Crawford
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. Crawford,

I write as an individual concerned with protecting the health of people in Maine from environmental poisons. Science and common sense are being ignored in the Department of Environmental Protection's recent request to exempt much of Maine from federal ozone pollution controls. Time after time, we see that the benefits of regulating air pollution greatly [outweigh](#) the costs of implementation, so don't be fooled by threats from industry that regulations are bad for business. Data show that this simply isn't true.

Ground-level ozone is a very dangerous air pollutant linked to asthma and permanent damage to children's lungs. According to the [U.S. CDC](#), Maine has the second highest rate of adult asthma in the U.S., over 20% higher than the national average, and Maine's childhood asthma rate is also higher than the national average. A [2005 study](#) show that in Portland, Maine, an increase in ozone was linked to an increase in emergency room visits for asthma attacks. Each year, thousands of people in the U.S. die in asthma attacks, and asthma also leads to millions of missed school days among U.S. children.

Ozone exposure also increases the risk of death in people with COPD and other respiratory diseases. The health impacts are so severe that ozone researchers cannot determine a "safe" level of exposure and instead argue that one [may not exist](#).

Making air pollution worse is bad for everyone and will certainly not lead to more jobs in Maine. Undoubtedly, it will also be bad for Maine's tourism economy, which requires beautiful and safe air and water. I urge you to do the right thing and do NOT remove certain areas of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region (OTR) pursuant to Clean Air Act Section 176A(a)(2).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Gail Carlson, Ph.D.
5 Wilson Park

Waterville, ME 04901