

Burke, Ruth A

From: Anne Carney <anneinmaine@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 4:02 PM
To: DEP Rule Comments
Subject: OTR comments

Dear Mr. Crawford and Maine Department of Environmental Protection Officials:

The administration's petition to withdraw most of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region is based on the beneficial impact of the Clean Air Act and the OTR: "Collaborative work done by OTR states and other pollution control efforts have reduced ozone levels such that today, Maine does not experience the high ozone levels of the past, and the entire State has been designated in attainment with the ozone standards since 2007 even as the standard itself continues to be lowered." OTR Petition Summary, pg. 3.

Collaboration with the other OTR states has greatly benefited Maine, reducing the harmful emissions produced in eleven states to our west and south, that blow into Maine. In fact, just two years ago we asked that the OTR be expanded to include an additional nine states. The success of the OTR is a reason to remain in the region and continue to support the goals of the Clean Air Act, not a reason to withdraw.

Allowing new and expanding businesses to avoid the OTR emissions standards harms Maine people and our state economy. Increased ground-level ozone causes health problems for older Mainers, young children, and people with asthma, COPD, and other breathing impairments. More smog and ozone pollution will also harm Maine's outdoor recreation and tourism economy.

The pollution control technology used in Maine and the other OTR is successful because all participating states in the region must follow the same rules. Maine, the 'tail pipe' of the region, benefits greatly from the efforts of the other states in the region to reduce emissions. If Maine withdraws from the OTR and allows new and expanding facilities to pollute more, other states in the region could opt out of the requirements as well. This would result in increased ozone pollution blowing into Maine, a huge step backward for our people and our economy.

I urge the Maine DEP to withdraw its petition, in order to preserve the health and economic benefits Maine has achieved through regional cooperation in reducing ozone-causing pollutants.

Sincerely,

Anne Carney
21 Angell Point Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107