

August 8, 2018

Jeffrey Crawford  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Clean Air Act Section 176A(a)(2) Petition

Dear Mr. Crawford:

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is a statewide business association that represents a network of 5,000 businesses both large and small across the state. Please accept these written comments as the testimony of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce in strong support for the State of Maine's proposed petition to U.S. EPA for removal of certain areas of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region.

The State of Maine is an ozone transport region success story and the removal of these areas recognizes this and is backed up by the science. Since 2007, Maine has been in attainment even as the standard has been lowered. Opting out of the OTR in certain areas of the state will help Maine businesses stay competitive with other businesses in other states. This change will lead to more investment in Maine and will not impact our environmental air quality. Maine has tremendous air quality and Maine's business community would never advocate for this if we believed it would impact our air quality – the science clearly states it would not. Maine DEP has made a clear case, based on science that the time has come for Maine to petition EPA for removal of certain areas of the state from the OTR.

Again, we strongly support Maine DEP's Clean Air Section 176A(a)(2) petition. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Best regards,



Ben Gilman  
General Counsel