

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Karla Hunter <kraehunter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2018 9:12 AM  
**To:** Crawford, Jeff S  
**Subject:** Keep Maine's Air Clean!

Dear Jeffrey Crawford,

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 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.

As an Environmental Scientist, I am well aware of the effects of living downwind of the greatest industrial nation in the world. All their pollution is washed out over us, with acid rain that alters the pH of lakes and streams, and alters the life within them, or outright kills it. What doesn't wash out, what stays suspended in the atmosphere, produces smog that exacerbates asthma. Do we want to see the repeat of the death of our forests, for which we rely for tourism and raw materials, like those in the Black Forest of Germany where acid fog killed the trees and decimated the wildlife that depends upon it? We need CLEAN AIR, because it is so much more than what we can see.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Karla Hunter

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