

**Burke, Ruth A**

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**From:** Nell Tharpe <nelltharpe.cnm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** Crawford, Jeff S  
**Subject:** Keep Maine's Air Clean!

Dear Jeffrey Crawford,

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to 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 the health of Maine people, and it creates an opening for other states to modify their protections as well, which can result in more ozone pollution for Maine.

Given our geographic position, we need strong clean air protections in upwind states as well as our own, and 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 are vulnerable to the pollution from the rest of the nation. We need to continue to move forward on clean air protections and be leaders in this arena.

I am a typical, active and healthy Mainer. However, while I am writing this, I am confined to my home with air conditioning due to exacerbation respiratory issues from the high levels of particulates and ozone. The air quality warnings that were issued the other day, cued me in to the risk. I ended up in Urgent Care, and on multiple medications that barely keep the symptoms at bay. I am losing productivity and the joy of living in Maine in the summer. I am self-employed and lost work is lost income.

This is a real issue for me and I hope that you will take this request to preserve the quality of Maine's air seriously. Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Nell Tharpe

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