



November 26, 2012

Laura K. Furgione, Acting Director
National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Vermont

Virginia

RE: Proposed Termination of NWS Air Quality Predictions

Dear Ms. Furgione,

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) is very concerned about the National Weather Service (NWS's) proposed termination of NWS ozone and fine particle air quality predictions and urges NWS to continue this important service. The OTC is a multi-state organization created under the Clean Air Act responsible for advising EPA on transport issues and for developing and implementing regional solutions to the ground-level ozone problem in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States. OTC members include: Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

State air quality programs are required under Section 127 of the Clean Air Act to conduct certain duties to protect public health. This includes issuing daily public forecasts of the air quality index, and air quality health advisories when appropriate. The NWS ozone and fine particulate forecast products are a core component of the OTC states' forecasting toolbox.

We understand that budgets are currently strained at all levels of government. However, termination of the daily ozone and fine particulate matter forecast will significantly reduce the information available to states for developing accurate ozone and fine particulate matter forecasts. We urge NWS to coordinate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on this important public health issue, and work together to ensure that these critical prediction tools can be maintained. As a multi-state organization which has over 20 years of experience with efforts to improve ground-level ozone levels, OTC would welcome further discussion on this issue with NWS. Please contact me with any questions at (202) 508-3840.

Sincerely,

J. Wick Havens
Interim Executive Director

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Interim Executive
Director

444 N. Capitol St. NW
Suite 322
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 508-3840
FAX (202) 508-3841
Email: ozone@otcair.org

Cc: Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, U.S. EPA
OTC Air Directors