

March 14, 2006

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: EPA Small Engine Rule

Dear Administrator Johnson:

The undersigned states have been working together to explore where common goals might be achievable through “super-regional” coordination of our respective attainment planning work. These efforts are primarily related to the 8-hour ozone standard, however due to the multi-pollutant aspects of our responsibilities we are also cognizant of fine particulate matter, mercury and regional haze issues. One such area we’ve recently identified is the importance of EPA completing its development and promulgation of regulations to address small non-road spark-ignition engines. This rulemaking has the potential to provide very significant reductions and would have major implications for our states and our respective attainment strategies.

As you may be aware, Congress restricted state rulemaking authority regarding small engines in the VA/HUD section of the fiscal year 2004 (FY04) Omnibus funding bill (HR2673), and directed EPA to propose regulations containing national standards to reduce emissions from new non-road spark-ignition engines smaller than 50 horsepower by December 1, 2004.

Modeling shows significant reductions from local and area sources are needed if we hope to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This is true even with the federal programs on the books, such as CAIR, CAMR and CAVR and the very significant on-road and off-road diesel initiatives of EPA. A meaningful rulemaking to address these small engines remains important, will need to be technology-driving and should be implemented on a timeline that considers the urgency of upcoming attainment deadlines.

Accordingly, we urge you to promulgate these rules immediately, and extend to you our offer of assistance in any way that would be helpful in this effort. We look forward to actively participating in the review and comment process, and will work expeditiously with EPA to complete a rule as soon as possible.

Please advise us as to the status of progress on this rulemaking to date, and how we might help EPA with its advancement. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate constructively with EPA on small engines and other matters related to air pollution issues going forward.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Connecticut



Delaware



District of Columbia



Illinois



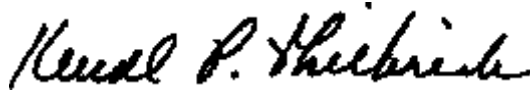
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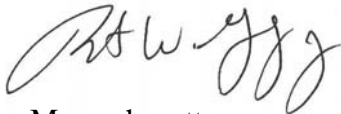
Iowa



Maine



Maryland



Massachusetts



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New Hampshire



New Jersey



New York



Ohio



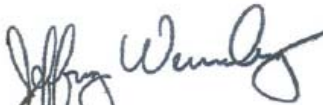
Pennsylvania



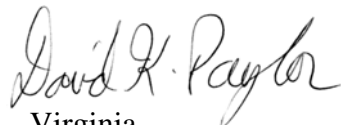
Rhode Island



Texas



Vermont



Virginia



Wisconsin

cc: William Wehrum, Assistant Administrator, OAR, EPA  
Margo Oge, Director, Office of Transportation Air Quality, EPA