



ADVOCATES for the **West**
P.O. Box 1612 | Boise, ID 83701

February 6, 2015

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Gina McCarthy, U.S. EPA Administrator
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

**Re: Clean Air Act Petition to Redesignate Ada and Canyon Counties,
Idaho to Nonattainment for Fine Particulate Matter Pollution**

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing on behalf of my client, the Idaho Conservation League (ICL), to submit the enclosed Clean Air Act petition. In recent years, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution has reached unacceptably high levels in Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho, and available monitoring data indicates that these counties are no longer in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). ICL therefore requests that you redesignate Ada and Canyon Counties as a nonattainment area for the 2006 primary and secondary 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Prompt EPA action is critical, and ICL requests that you take action within 120 days. Ada County and adjacent Canyon County are home to 600,000 people and Idaho's three largest cities (Boise, Nampa, and Meridian). Concentrations of fine particulate matter pollution have skyrocketed in both counties in recent years, and PM_{2.5} levels in Ada County are now among the highest in the nation. EPA has identified serious health and environmental impacts, as well as substantial costs, associated with such high levels of PM_{2.5} pollution. Even though the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has recognized Ada and Canyon Counties as PM_{2.5} "Areas of Concern," the agency has been unable to prevent NAAQS violations and keep the area from slipping into nonattainment. Until EPA takes action, residents of Idaho's largest metropolitan area will continue to breath unhealthy air.

Please contact me, or Courtney Washburn at the Idaho Conservation League ((208) 345-6933, cwashburn@idahoconservation.org), if you would like additional information or would otherwise like to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Bryan Hurlbutt
Advocates for the West

Encl.

Cc w/ encl:

Dennis McLerran, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Jim Werntz, Director
EPA Idaho Office
950 W. Bannock
Boise, ID 83702

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Curt Fransen, Director
Idaho DEQ
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706