

August 8, 2023

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Administrator Michael Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone

On behalf of our members and supporters, our organizations write to urge the administration to hear the voices of communities and continue the process of quickly updating the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone and ensure a strong final rule that reflects the most recent recommendations of the overwhelming majority of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. Bolstered by the latest science and medical data, there is clearly an urgent need for tighter limits on this harmful and pervasive pollutant, particularly to protect vulnerable populations including children, older Americans, people with asthma, pregnant people, people with underlying health conditions, and sensitive ecosystems.

A little more than two years ago, 74 organizations asked your administration to reconsider the 2020 decision not to update the ozone NAAQS to protect both public health and the environment. Your administration agreed, setting a moderate timeline to complete the reconsideration by the end of 2023. We are alarmed by the slippage from that timeline. Now, the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council has weighed in to urge you to complete action on a new ozone NAAQS, at the most protective end of the recent recommendations by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, by Spring 2024. We echo their concerns.

Communities have been waiting too long for delivery of the Clean Air Act's promise of safe, healthy air for all. To meet the environmental justice and climate commitments this administration has made, we strongly urge you to put an end to delays, follow the science, and expeditiously finish the work of strengthening these critical clean air standards.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Earthjustice