



September 16, 2019

Ms. Abby Fulton
EPA, Region 8, Air and Radiation Division
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RE: Docket ID No. EPA-R08-OAR-2019-0354

Dear Ms. Fulton:

The Colorado Chamber of Commerce, representing hundreds of businesses across the state, as well as trade associations, economic development organizations, and local chambers of commerce, appreciates your consideration of our below comments. Specifically, the Colorado Chamber believes the attainment extension granted to then-Governor Hickenlooper is reflective of the concerted efforts by Colorado's businesses, manufacturers, communities and state government to reach a balanced solution between good air quality attainment and predictability for businesses – and how that partnership has allowed for Colorado's greater economic prosperity.

Coloradans value our business spirit, stewardship of the land and our ability to turn ideas into benefits for the economy and our state. Given this understanding and pro-business environment, the Colorado Chamber believes re-classification of the Metro Denver/North Front Range attainment areas would result in immediate and long-term damage to our state's economy.

The Colorado Chamber, its policy councils and its members have been active participants in the development of the Regional Air Quality Council's and Air Quality Pollution Control Division's process of developing the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Therefore, the Colorado Chamber will continue to request that 1) appropriate time to respond and plan for a new and immediate SIP be given; and 2) there be an appropriate opportunity to properly examine the role all source contributors play in our state's ability to attain the 2008 ozone NAAQS.

As many have noted and will note, the withdrawal request will have significant and statewide effects. Withdrawing Colorado's formal extension request of additional time to demonstrate compliance with the 2008 ozone NAAQS would set in motion mandatory, immediate, inflexible and lasting requirements under the Clean Air Act that will have a massive impact on the members of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. The jump to "Serious" nonattainment will affect more than 600 individual sources in the Denver Metro North Front Range (DMNFR) nonattainment area, requiring those businesses to evaluate additional emission controls, be identified as major sources and submit applications for operating permits at considerable additional cost.



The withdrawal of Colorado's extension request also brings substantial administrative burdens to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), likely requiring new resources at a large cost, not just to those sources in the nonattainment area, but to all sources within the State of Colorado. Serious redesignation will also have immeasurable economic impacts on the business community we represent. Additionally, some of the lesser known harms of a redesignation could also include: loss of federal highway funds, the limiting or restricting of federal air permits for businesses, including widening the circle of businesses not previously required to hold air permits, and the likelihood that new air emissions standards could eliminate industries in Colorado.

For our members and the business community as a whole, the drastic changes that will be required under a "Serious" designation, or even worse under a possible "Severe" designation, would disregard the successful commonsense work already accomplished, and the expected ozone precursor emission reductions that are anticipated to occur in our communities.

From an economic perspective, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce is deeply concerned that designating Colorado as a "Serious" nonattainment area now will set the DMNFR nonattainment area up for almost certain failure to attain the (Serious) standard in the timeframe mandated, and will likely require a "Severe" redesignation in just a few short years.

The State of Colorado has withdrawn its request for an extension of the "Moderate" nonattainment date. The Colorado Chamber in turn asks the EPA to consider the successful work currently being done at the state level, by the business community, to improve our air quality – while balancing our economic prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leah Curtsinger
Federal Policy Director
Colorado Chamber of Commerce