



PAUL R. LEFAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

June 15, 2018

Administrator Pruitt
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

I commend you on your efforts to improve the effectiveness of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and your leadership in encouraging more cooperation between EPA and the states. Long have the states struggled to implement the unending procession of EPA regulations, policies and guidance, often with no discernable benefit to public health and the environment. “Cooperative federalism” holds great promise, but it cannot succeed if EPA continues to force states to implement bureaucratic requirements that do absolutely nothing to protect our citizens and natural resources.

Specifically, EPA has threatened Maine with sanctions if we do not adopt into state rules the Control Techniques Guideline for Industrial Cleaning Solvents—even though EPA is unable to identify any facilities in Maine that will be subject to the rule. This is an unnecessary burden on state government to confirm that our businesses, which are already subject to many other requirements to control their air emissions, maintain records proving they are not subject to this new rule.

EPA is requiring the State of Maine to adopt this Control Techniques Guideline only because we are in the Ozone Transport Region. Although the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments placed Maine in the Ozone Transport Region, the entire State of Maine has been classified in attainment with the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard since 2007. However, we continue to be subject to the same regulations as areas that are classified as nonattainment.

As a result of this and other unnecessary requirements that deter businesses from coming to or expanding in our state, Maine will be submitting a request to remove portions of the state from the Ozone Transport Region under the authority of Section 176(a) of the CAA. You should be receiving this petition soon. I ask for your support in approving our request.



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The country benefits from leaders like you who recognize the effectiveness of the right regulations in the right areas and who allow our limited resources to be focused on requirements that actually improve Maine's environment.

Sincerely


Paul R. LePage
Governor