



DAILY READING FILE

*Donnalee Lozeau*

MAYOR

FAX COVER SHEET

Fax #: 202-501-1450

To: Gina McCarthy  
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

From: Brenda Cloutier, Executive Assistant  
Office of the Mayor

Date: August 27, 2015

Re: Letter from Mayor Donnalee Lozeau

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

2015 AUG 28 PM 1:16

RECEIVED

**DAILY READING FILE**

*Donnalee Lozeau*  
MAYOR

August 25, 2015

Brian Deese, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor  
ATTN: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0699  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)  
Mail code 28221T  
Mandate to Lower Ozone Quality Standards

Dear Mr. Deese,

As mayor of one of New Hampshire's largest and most diverse cities, I take the issue of clean air and clean energy very seriously. While many people talk of making positive change, my constituents and I are taking action. I support the idea that everyone must do their fair share to preserve the environment. We must recognize the impact and threat of climate change and our role in it.

For example, in recent years, Nashua has initiated several energy-efficiency projects such as switching our city's fleet of maintenance and garbage trucks to compressed natural gas engines. We have 35 such vehicles, which are cleaner running and more efficient than the traditional fuel powered engines. We are doing our part. But there are some actions that can do more harm than good in the pursuit of clean air and a better environment.

The EPA's proposal to reduce ozone standards nationwide has goals that are admirable, and I am reluctant to say no to a plan with achievable goals. But the way in which we achieve these goals must be considered. This plan carries penalties against counties, communities and even businesses if the newly proposed ozone levels are not met.

Cities like Nashua could face tough new regulations which could stifle business development and expansion. We could face a loss of federal highway funds, which the US Conference of Mayors has stated in its opposition to this idea "can negatively affect job creation and critical economic development projects for impacted regions, even when these projects and plans could have a measurable positive effect on congestion relief."

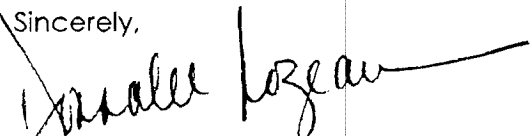
The USCOM has also correctly pointed out the 2008 ozone standard has not been fully implemented, which means the benefits of your previous attempt to boost air quality through this method have not been fully realized.

I completely agree that we must act now to protect our environment, but we cannot rush into anything. My final point is the bottom line: cost. According to your own experts, this rule change would cost anywhere from \$3.9 billion to \$15.2 billion dollars per year to implement. Considering this rule change would mean 350-550 counties would fail to meet the new standards; that would be an expensive implementation with more punishment than progress.

I believe there is a better way. The EPA and the Administration should allow us all more time to achieve the 2008 standard, which will continue to improve our air quality as more areas work to meet that standard. Changing the standard before then will harm our economy and could risk the livelihoods of so many Americans.

As someone who believes compromise is always the best path, I believe this is a conversation that can and must be held with our elected officials who are responsible for setting policy, lawmakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders at the same table together. We can do this together; my own city is proof of the power of cooperation. Please reconsider making any immediate additional changes to the national ozone standard.

Sincerely,



Donnalee Lozeau

cc: Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President for Public Engagement and  
Intergovernmental Affairs and Senior Advisor  
Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte  
U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen