



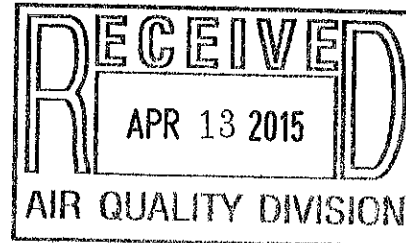
The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming  
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nature.org

April 13, 2015

Mr. Steven A. Dietrich  
Administrator, WDEQ/AQD  
Herschler Building 2-E  
122 W. 25th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82002



RE: Proposed changes to Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, Chapter 8, Nonattainment Area Regulations.

Dear Administrator Dietrich:

The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming appreciates this opportunity to express its support for adoption of the proposed rulemaking to revise Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations Chapter 8, Nonattainment Area Regulations.

The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) is a 60-year-old non-profit conservation organization whose mission is "to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends." The Conservancy is solution- and partnership-oriented, and we employ a science-based approach to achieve creative solutions to conservation and development challenges. We have helped conserve nearly 17 million acres of land in the United States and Canada and more than 119 million acres with local partner organizations globally. In Wyoming, we have worked with others to conserve over 1 million acres of land and 1,500 miles of rivers and streams. Our Wyoming work has been guided by a Wyoming Board of Trustees and Wyoming-based staff for more than 25 years.

We appreciate the efforts of the Air Quality Division and the Air Quality Advisory Board to craft reasonable and necessary regulations and encourage adoption by the Environmental Quality Council. Elevated ozone levels can be deleterious to human and animal health and negatively impact natural resources. Nonattainment status can also hinder economic development. The proposed rulemaking represents an important effort to address air quality concerns in the Upper Green River Basin ozone nonattainment area.

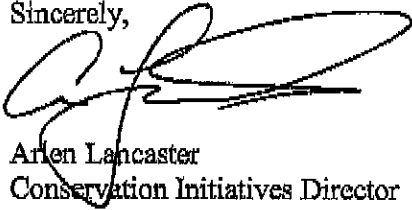
It is clear the rule changes are the result of extensive engagement with the public and stakeholders. The regulations are reasonable and technically achievable, using control measures and practices currently available and widely used. We also appreciate that reducing ozone precursor emissions will also reduce a potent greenhouse gas, methane.

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Methane emissions not only impact public health and the environment, but represent lost revenue to the state.

Adoption of this rulemaking is consistent with Wyoming's desire to be a national leader in energy development and stewardship of its resources. The Conservancy encourages the Council and the Department of Environmental Quality to recognize the benefits of this rule and its applicability to other potential nonattainment areas in the state. Wyoming has an opportunity to lead the nation in sensible development of its resources, and we encourage the use of this rule as a template for broader application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Lancaster', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Arlen Lancaster  
Conservation Initiatives Director