



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 14 2014

Mr. Seth Johnson
Senior Associate Attorney
Earthjustice
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 702
Washington, D.C. 20036-2212

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the Sierra Club, you and your colleague Joshua Stebbins, filed on November 14, 2013, a petition requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency redesignate as nonattainment 57 areas with 2012 design values violating the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone. Furthermore, the Sierra Club requested that the EPA set specific boundaries for the areas as identified in the petition.

The EPA has carefully evaluated the issues and information in your petition as well as information obtained from the respective states with areas listed in your petition. For the reasons explained in the enclosure, the EPA is denying the petition using the discretion that the Clean Air Act affords me as Administrator to not initiate the redesignation process for any of the areas identified in the Sierra Club petition.

As an initial matter, 22 areas identified in the petition are again attaining the ozone NAAQS based on 2013 design values. As to the remaining areas, the EPA believes it is appropriate to allow time for affected states to consider appropriate measures to address the air-quality problems. The EPA expects that reductions in emissions of oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds due to existing federal measures, such as the Tier 3 motor-vehicle standards, and state-led efforts will assist these areas in attaining the 2008 ozone NAAQS. The EPA plans to publish a notice of this denial in the *Federal Register*.

I appreciate the Sierra Club and Earthjustice's interest in reducing ground-level ozone levels and in providing cleaner, healthier air for all Americans.

Sincerely,


Gina McCarthy

Enclosure



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 14 2014

Mr. Joshua Stebbins
Managing Attorney
The Sierra Club
50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Stebbins:

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