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MICHIGAN

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110th Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

November 21, 2008

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The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Governor  
The State of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

I write to you regarding an important issue to citizens in Kent and Ottawa counties. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released its recommendations for counties in nonattainment for Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Ottawa and Kent counties were both recommended for nonattainment even though Kent was only one point above the new standard and Ottawa was below the threshold.

Should Ottawa and Kent counties be designated in nonattainment, they will be subject to costly and restrictive transportation conformity requirements after one year, to New Source Review requirements for industries immediately and must develop with the state a detailed plan to meet the new standard within three years. The implementation of new regulations would cause severe restrictions to economic growth for these important counties.

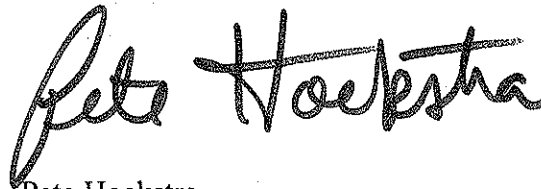
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responded to a comment that I submitted regarding their nonattainment recommendations, stating:

*"Prior to the effective date of final designations, states will have the option to provide more recent data. To do so, a state must submit complete, quality assured, certified 2008 air quality monitoring data to EPA earlier than the usual June 30, 2009 deadline. This early submittal deadline will be approximately 45 days prior to the 90-day effective date of publication of the final 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> designations. Should EPA agree that a change of designation status is appropriate based upon inclusion of 2008 data, EPA would withdraw the nonattainment designation prior to the 90-day effective date of final 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> designation, and the area would be designated attainment."*

I respectfully request that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality submit to EPA the quality assured data for 2008 as soon as possible. It is my understanding that the use of 2008 data could be the impetus to Kent and Ottawa counties being designated as in attainment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra  
Member of Congress



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