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June 26, 2018

Marc Cone, Director
Maine DEP BAQ
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

RE: Ozone Transport Region Petition

Dear Mr. Cone,

Maine Aggregate Association is a statewide, member-based group of businesses and individuals involved with the gravel and rock industries. Established in 1994, MAA 46 percent of the member companies are small family businesses with less than 5 employees. Another 38% of our member companies have less than 35 employees, and the remaining 16% have 36 or more employees. Only a handful has more than 100 employees. Aggregates are the foundation of economic activity. Policies that strengthen Maine's economy are of direct benefit to MAA member companies.

The Maine Aggregate Association (MAA) recognizes and applauds Maine's success in achieving and maintaining quality air for our residents and guests. Maine's hospitality and unmatched natural resources are a beacon to millions who love Maine as Vacationland.

To continue to nourish and protect those wonderful resources, Maine needs a vibrant economy and we must be more competitive. Every increasing demands on limited government resource make that goal an absolute necessity.

Equally important to achieving that goal is a regulatory climate based upon sound science and fairness. For much of the state, neither applies to continued inclusion in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR).

According to the Maine DEP petition, only 10 coastal communities and Acadia National Park are not in attainment with ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies Maine as in attainment. Inclusion in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR) subjects Maine businesses to more restrictive regulations than even some upwind states that continue to be in nonattainment. How is this fair?

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Not only is Maine in attainment, emissions from Maine sources do not cause or contribute to nonattainment in any other state.

As the petition points out, this request is not without precedent; the state of Virginia operates similarly and granting this petition is well supported by the economic and scientific fact. It represents fair and sound public policy.

MAA strongly endorses Maine's OTR petition. It is persuasive. The petition clearly sets forth strong science-based arguments. It clearly outlines the benefits and fairness for granting the petition; and, all without any compromise to Maine's or any other state's air quality.

The EPA should grant the petition.

Sincerely,

Janet Hughes

Janet Hughes,
President

Gene S. Fadrigon III

Gene Fadrigon,
Vice President