EPA’s New Ozone Standard = Slower Growth, Fewer Jobs
Many Communities Can’t Meet Lower Standard

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants to lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone to 65-70 parts per billion. Its proposal will stifle economic development in many areas of the country.

In Nonattainment Areas, Business Growth is a Zero-Sum Game

- When EPA lowers a NAAQS, regions unable to meet the new standard are designated ‘nonattainment.’ These areas have a hard time attracting industry and sustaining economic growth.

- In order to expand, businesses must shut down other parts of their production, wait for others to close, or buy emissions ‘offsets’ that are hard to find and extremely expensive. All these factors create uncertainty in investment projects that can ultimately make new investment not worth the trouble.

- At 65 ppb, 2000 counties in 45 states covering a population of 255 million would be in nonattainment, based on EPA’s most recent complete data. At 70 ppb, 1300 counties in 40 states covering a population of 210 million would be in nonattainment.

Lower Ozone Standard Would Affect Every Sector of the Economy

COMMUNITIES
State and local officials will seek reductions from cars, fuels, consumers, and commerce
Could lose jobs and tax revenue to neighboring areas that are in attainment
Could lose federal highway and transit funding since projects must conform with state implementation plans
Will incur costs from increased vehicle fees and inspections

SMALL BUSINESSES
Gas stations, bakeries, printing operations, dry cleaners, auto body shops and small manufacturers will be affected
“Expense and red tape will be a massive barrier to new startups and business formation”*

The National Federal of Independent Businesses opposes a lower ozone standard
*Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council

FACTORIES & POWER PLANTS
New, facilities, expansions, and restarts could be delayed or scrapped
Facilities will have to pay millions for offsets even though new production is cleaner and state of the art
Facilities will be required to install “mystery” controls,* which could result in plant closures and equipment losses
*A significant portion of the controls and technologies needed are what EPA calls “unknown controls.”

EPA Should Finish the Job on the Current Standard
The current standard of 75 ppb is the most stringent ever and hasn’t been fully implemented across the country. EPA just completed the rules for states to implement 2008’s standard and pledged to help them comply. Parts of 26 states covering a population of 120 million still don’t meet the standard. With air quality improving, maintaining the current standard will enable further emissions reductions while supporting U.S. manufacturing growth.