



CAL DOOLEY  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Bill Flores  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Flores:

On behalf of the members of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), we commend you for introducing H.R. 4000, the “Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Deadline Harmonization Act.” Your bill addresses longstanding problems with the implementation process for new air regulations and will support manufacturing investment and hiring in the United States.

As you know, new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ozone standards take effect on December 28, 2015. Manufacturers wishing to build or expand a facility will need to obtain a permit showing that their project will comply. Yet it often takes years for EPA to issue the necessary rules and guidance. For instance, the Agency finished the rules for its 2008 ozone standards just this past February.<sup>i</sup>

We are concerned that some chemical industry projects will be in limbo until EPA explains how to obtain a permit going forward. At least \$10 billion in investment – new facilities, expansions, and factory restarts – could be at risk.

H.R. 4000 will help. It allots more time for designating ‘nonattainment areas’ and submitting plans for the 2015 standards. That will allow states to focus on implementing the 2008 standards first. Until the designation process is complete, facilities can continue applying for permits under the 2008 standards.

Under your bill, the nonattainment area designations for the 2015 standards are to be made by 2025. This timing is sensible since EPA expects the vast majority of U.S. counties to meet the 2015 standards by 2025 without having to take additional actions to reduce emissions.



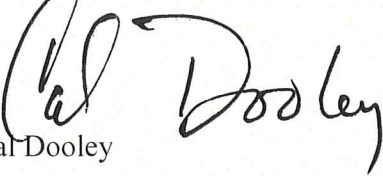
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We thank you again for taking this concrete step to improve the implementation process for new air rules. We look forward to working with you to expedite passage of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,



Cal Dooley

Great Work!

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<sup>i</sup> EPA Fact Sheet, "Final Rule - Implementation of the 2008 NAAQS for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements" <http://www3.epa.gov/airquality/ozonepollution/pdfs/20150213fs.pdf> Other examples include nitrogen dioxide and sulfur oxides in 2010 and fine particulate matter in 2012. In the fact sheet, EPA pledged to "continue to work closely with states, tribes and communities to provide assistance in implementing the 2008 ozone standards."