

June 24, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Air quality problems in the South must be addressed through cooperative regional approaches that consider each state's unique qualities and needs. During 2001, the states of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee entered into the Southern Air Principles agreement (copy enclosed) to develop and implement joint multi-pollutant strategies addressing the concerns of public health, acid deposition and reduced visibility. We also intend to implement innovative transportation and energy policies to assist these strategies and hope to expand the Air Principles agreement to include other southern states.

Additionally, our states have been participating with Alabama, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia in the Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative (SAMI), which will be completed later this summer. This initiative will recommend reasonable measures to protect the air quality related values of the Class I parks and wilderness areas in the Southern Appalachian Mountains (see enclosure of preliminary recommendations). One of the key findings of SAMI is that each SAMI state would receive the most significant air quality benefits from reductions of emissions from within their own state boundaries. Furthermore, SAMI concluded that an individual state may not be able to resolve its air quality issues without assistance from neighboring states and other regions. Therefore, a strong national multi-pollutant strategy helps all states, including those that have reduced emissions from sources within their own borders, towards the goal of clean air.

We therefore urge you to implement, through legislation, a strong national multi-pollutant strategy to reduce the emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury particularly from electric utility plants. We believe a stringent cap and trade program, with provisions to allow additional control requirements to address each state's local air quality needs, is the most effective approach to implementing this strategy. Additionally, early reductions obtained from an individual state's efforts should be recognized, encouraged and rewarded by any subsequent national measures.

We look forward to working with you as equal partners in this important national effort.

Sincerely,



*Mike Easley*

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
State of North Carolina



*Roy E. Barnes*

Roy E. Barnes, Governor  
State of Georgia



*Don Sundquist*

Don Sundquist, Governor  
State of Tennessee



*Jim Hodges*

Jim Hodges, Governor  
State of South Carolina