



April 24, 2017

Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: A Joint Letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regarding the Importance of Full Funding for Air Quality Programs

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, the National Tribal Air Association, the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center's Steering Committee and the EPA's National Tribal Caucus, we congratulate you on your recent confirmation and appointment as EPA Administrator. We wish you success in the important task of protecting public health through implementation of the Clean Air Act and other environmental statutes. We are writing to you regarding the important work that Federal, State, Local, and Tribal agencies do together to protect public health through air quality programs funded by EPA and the critical importance of continued federal funding for these activities.

Since EPA's creation in 1970 during the Nixon Administration, the Clean Air Act has helped reduce air pollution significantly. For example, since 1980, aggregate emissions of criteria pollutants and air toxics have decreased by nearly 70 percent, while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown by 153 percent, vehicle miles travelled have increased by 106 percent and our population has grown by 41 percent, all since 1980.

These facts agree with your recent comments that the United States can have strong economic development and responsible environmental protection. As you begin your tenure, we wish to remind you about the important role that State and Local agencies and Tribes play in co-regulating air quality in an ongoing partnership with EPA.

Federal grants support many critical State, Local, and Tribal programs that are essential to attaining and maintaining healthful air quality. These include, among others, implementing the national health-based air quality standards for multiple pollutants, developing implementation plans, and addressing hazardous air pollutants. These programs require many resource-intensive activities such as monitoring air quality, planning, developing inventories of emissions, modeling, collecting data, inspecting facilities, enforcing regulations, and keeping the public informed and involved in our decisions. In order to carry out these important programs, it is imperative that the funding provided by EPA continues at a level that will allow us to keep our programs in full operation.

We take pride in the partnerships among States, Local agencies, Tribes, EPA, and other air quality entities. Funding and the technical resources that EPA provides for monitoring, analysis, co-regulation,

indoor air quality testing and remediation, and a host of other activities, are critical to supporting these efforts.

We encourage you to demonstrate EPA's continued commitment to supporting the sovereignty and self-determination of States, Local governments, and Tribes through the appropriate and adequate allocation of funding for State, Local, and Tribal air programs; proactive engagement in government-to-government consultation; support of EPA's trust responsibility; development and implementation of air quality programs that are responsive to the feedback from States, Local agencies, and Tribes; and response to requests and recommendations in a timely manner.

We hope EPA will continue to recognize the importance of State, Local, and Tribal air quality programs by ensuring that we have adequate resources to carry out our important work. We look forward to working with you in your role as EPA Administrator. Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact Andy Bessler, Project Director of the National Tribal Air Association, at andy.bessler@nau.edu if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Signed,



Wilfred J. Nabahe, Chairman

National Tribal Air Association's Executive Committee

The National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) is a Tribal membership organization with 120 member Tribes whose mission is to advance air quality management policies and programs consistent with the needs, interests, and unique legal status of federally recognized Tribes.



S. William Becker, Executive Director

National Association of Clean Air Agencies

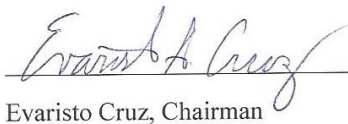
NACAA is a national, non-partisan, non-profit association of state and local air pollution control agencies in 45 states, the District of Columbia and four territories. The air quality professionals in its membership have vast experience dedicated to improving air quality in the United States.



Craig Kreman, Chairman

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center's Steering Committee

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center represents a collaborative effort among Tribes from across the nation, the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address environmental program development needs. The TAMS Center offers different training courses, professional assistance, and an equipment loan program that focuses on a variety of topics related to ambient and indoor air quality monitoring. A Steering Committee, comprised of Tribal air quality professionals, helps the TAMS Center in providing timely guidance and information to help Tribal program succeed.



Evaristo Cruz, Chairman

EPA's National Tribal Caucus

The National Tribal Caucus (NTC) is part of EPA's National Tribal Operations Committee that you co-chair with the NTC Chairman Evaristo Cruz. NTC represents tribes from across the nation regarding environmental issues, the regulatory partnership tribes have with EPA, and initiatives, funding, and programs to address environmental issues and public health.