



Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light

A Spiritual Response to Climate Change

www.tennipl.org tennipl@gmail.com

PO Box 26313 Knoxville TN 37912

Gina McCarthy, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

March 10, 2015

RE: Protecting Tennessee communities from smog pollution, EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0699

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing on behalf of Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (TIPL). TIPL is the state affiliate of a network of faith communities working across the U.S. to offer a spiritual response to climate change.

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers updated protections from dangerous smog (ground-level ozone) pollution, protection of public health and peer-reviewed science must be the standards used in making this decision. Health experts, epidemiologists, and numerous medical organizations have clearly stated that the existing standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) is not adequate to protect public health, particularly vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly and those with breathing ailments like asthma. These same experts report that smog pollution at levels as low as 55 or 60ppb can trigger asthma attacks and send children to the hospital. A 12-city EPA analysis showed that reducing the level of smog pollution to 60 parts per billion would save 4-5 times as many lives as a weaker standard of 70 parts per billion.

To best protect our public health, particularly children's health, we strongly urge you to set the standard at 60ppb. Tennessee residents deserve to know if their air is clean or not, and so we are counting on EPA to use the best available science to set an accurate standard.

As representatives of faith communities across the state we believe it is imperative to protect the health of the most vulnerable among us – particularly children and the elderly. We clearly have the means to maintain clean air – it is a moral imperative that we do so.

Thank you for your consideration, the opportunity to comment, and for all EPA's work to protect communities from dangerous pollution.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Joranko

President

Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light