From: Derek Schulz
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2022 6:30:11 PM

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Dear Director Glatt,

Please read this entire comment. Most of it is cookie cutter response, which I fully believe in But, there is more info I've thought of.

I am writing to you as a supporter of abundant, balanced, reliable, low-cost energy. A diverse set of energy resources is crucial for our region, and our nation. For example, last year's energy crisis in Texas is a good example. Power from our coal based plants had to be shipped there to assist in their crisis. This caused issues with our own regional power supplies, but weworked through it. If Texas still had diversifies piwer sources, they could have avoided their crisis. But laws have made it impossible for them to keep a diversafied source of power.. Coal-based electricity must continue to be part of the equation. I support retaining coal as a regional energy source, and with infrastructure build up the ability to use it nationally, that will help keep electric rates low, jobs plentiful, and our economy robust. Coal has been and will continue to provide the source for power we can depend on.

More importantly, North Dakota's coal industry is a good neighbor. In accordance with DEQ's visibility plan, the industry has significantly invested in its power plants over the last decade to ensure the state continues boasting the cleanest air in the country. These investments reduced emissions by 66% and put the state well ahead of the path to eliminating visibility impairment in its parks by 2064-the goal set by the United States EPA.

State researchers report that wildfires and international emissions are the primary causes of visibility impairment. In 2020 and 2021, North Dakota experienced long episodes of visibility impairment throughout summer and fall due these emissions, which the state cannot control. These also caused health and environmental issues in the region too.Due to the continued drought in far western regions, state experts believe this trend could continue. Costly new regulations imposed on power plants will not address this concern-instead, resources should be dedicated to reducing the fires that are the source of the haze.

I understand DEQ may be under pressure to impose new controls on power plants, even though power plants are not the primary cause of visibility impairment and new controls would not meaningfully improve visibility. Therefore, I urge support for the implementation plan developed by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that ensures our region continues to benefit from clean and clear air along with reliable, affordable electricity supply, today and in the future.

Sincerely,

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