From: Rena Rustad
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:20:03 PM

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Dear Director Glatt,

I support what the ND DEQ already has in place for visibility regulations. As a supporter of our diverse energy resources in our region, coal-based electricity must continue to be the majority part of production. It strengthens the communities that surround it, supplies a super base load and qualifies as being the cleanest in the country. ND Coal = reliable power.

More importantly, North Dakota's coal industry is a good for the people around it.
The industry has significantly invested in its power plants over the last decade to ensure the state continues to have 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 by 2064. As usual, ND is ahead of the game when it comes to energy!

State researchers report that wildfires and international emissions are the primary causes of visibility impairment. In 2020, North Dakota experienced long episodes of visibility impairment throughout summer and fall due these emissions, which the state cannot control. We also experienced more allergic reactions to the smoke coming from out of state.

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.

Power plants are not the primary cause of visibility impairment and new controls would not meaningfully improve visibility.
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 air and a clear sky, along with a reliable, affordable electricity supply, today and in the future.

Sincerely,

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