From: Carol Steinhart
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Protect North Dakota"s parks from haze pollution
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:56:25 AM

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Dear Director James L. Semerad,

I and millions of other Americans deeply value clean air and clear views in national parks and wilderness areas protected under the Regional Haze Rule. North Dakota, you have the dubious distinction of having three coal plants in America's top 50 dirtiest facilities polluting our national parks.

These coal plants, other industrial facilities and oil and gas operations across the state are some of the worst sources of haze pollution that ruin scenic views and dark night skies in our national parks and wilderness areas.

All Americans are stakeholders, and I am very disappointed that North Dakota's Department of Environmental Quality has proposed a woefully inadequate Regional Haze plan for the second implementation period that fails to require cost-effective controls for polluting coal plants and the oil and gas facilities. The plan is totally unacceptable and makes no significant progress toward clean air in places like Theodore Roosevelt, Badlands and Voyageurs National Parks, and rural and indigenous communities near the polluting facilities and the parks.

North Dakota ranks number one among states in its contribution to haze pollution in National Park Service protected areas. You cannot be unaware of the statistics. Your facilities have muddied views, harmed public health, and obstructed clear night skies for far too long.

Please revise the plan by:
1. Implementing strong and emission-reducing measures for the selected five coal-fired power plants where emissions are long overdue to be cleaned up.
2. Requiring emission reductions from the four oil and gas point sources selected, as well as from oil and gas non-point source emissions like engines and flaring.
3. Thoroughly assessing and addressing the environmental justice consequences to local and indigenous communities.

With these revisions North Dakota will put parks, people, and clean air ahead of polluters' interests and make substantial progress toward clearer air in our national parks, wilderness areas, and impacted communities.

North Dakota is obligated to make progress toward improving air quality and limiting haze pollution in Class I areas. If the plan is left unchanged, it will not comply with the federal Clean Air Act or the EPA's Regional Haze Rule. All Americans are stakeholders, and we deserve better than the current plan.

Thank you,

Carol Steinhart
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