From: Erin Laverdure
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 9:10:07 AM

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Dear Director Glatt,

I live in Stanton. I have spent my entire life in North Dakota's coal country. I can see with my own eyes, without question, that every power plant in the region is operated in an environmentally sound manner. Employees take personal responsibility to ensure the plants and their associated environmental control equipment are running appropriately. Why? Because we live here! We want our own homes to be clean and healthy.

I support retaining coal as a regional energy source that will help keep electric rates low, jobs plentiful, and our economy robust. 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. 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 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,

Erin Laverdure
520 Lyon St
Stanton, ND 58571
erinrae@westriv.com