From: Matthew Marshall
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:20:04 PM

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Dear Director Glatt,

I am writing to you as a supporter North Dakota's coal power plants and the abundant, balanced, reliable, low-cost energy they provide. A diverse set of energy resources is crucial for our region, and coal-based electricity must continue to be part of the equation. The current trend of energy resources transitioning away from traditional sources for new technologies that do not provide the security or reliability is irresponsible policy.

As an avid outdoorsman I spend a significant amount of time recreating in Western North Dakota and believe 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. Anyone who spends any time in the North or South unit of the Theodore Rosevelt National Park knows how clean and clear the air is and that visibility and air quality are not an issue.

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. 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, this pressure is misguided. Additional regulations on coal fired power plants in the region would have no effect on visibility in these areas. Further additional stress on this energy production threatens the livelihoods of those in our state. 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.

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 coal-based electricity must continue to be part of the equation. I support retaining coal as a regional energy source 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, North Dakota experienced long episodes of visibility impairment throughout summer and fall due these emissions, which the state cannot control. 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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