From: Brad Baumann
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:20:06 AM

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Dear Director Glatt,

On behalf of the Company I work for, Marvin, we have facilities in both MN and ND. At one of our facilities in MN, we have had ambient air monitors running for a few years. We clearly understand the real impact to the results are from wildfires, and understand that will impact ND monitors as well. We also understand the amount of air permitting work involved with our facilities and emission control equipment at our facilities, including those in ND. We fully support the "NDDEQ Visibility Plan", their efforts and resulting clean air in ND. Industry investment has been significant, and reliable energy is something we all need, at work, home and elsewhere. Thank You for all the efforts and the opportunity to comment. NDDEQ's approach is supported.

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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