



June 22, 2016

Administrator Gina McCarthy
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Regional Haze Rule (Comments on Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015- 0531)

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

Public Land Solutions, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive recreation planning and stakeholder coordination to gateway communities and land managers. We are writing today to thank you for the Clean Air Act's (CAA) Regional Haze Rule.

Our organization works with gateway communities near public lands who depend on the recreation economy to bring both visitors and quality of life recruits. Whether a person is looking to locate their business near public lands, or they are visiting just for the week, both groups expect good clean air and fabulous views.

The Environmental Protection Agency has long provided protections for our nation's recreation assets, and by extension, our recreation economy. While commodities continue to be volatile and subject to market conditions, the recreation economy is experiencing continued steady growth. This rule offers strong protections for maintaining the quality of outdoor experiences, like a hike in Arches National Park or a bike ride along the Colorado River. These experiences are the products which are currently supplementing, and in some cases eclipsing, the sale of commodities across our public lands.

As a part of our recreation area protections, we appreciate the administration's implementation of the Regional Haze Rule to date, which has required reductions of 785,000 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 420,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, along with a co-

benefit of reducing more than 52 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. These reductions help allow visitors to enjoy our public land's most treasured views and night skies.

To keep pace with the growth of the recreation economy around the country, we are a bit concerned about the time table. Would it be possible to maintain the 2018 deadline for the next planning period? And is it necessary to allow a full decade for States to begin cleaning up those sources of pollution identified by federal land managers? While remedying visibility impairment is a complicated task, delay will not make it easier. As more communities turn to outdoor recreation as an economic driver, we need to make sure the views and experiences they are 'selling' remain awe inspiring.

States around the country are taking steps to improve their recreation economies by hiring state recreation directors. As this trend grows we hope to see improved partnerships between states and federal land managers that will lead to an alignment of goals around the need to protect each state's unique views and outdoor experiences. For this reason, we hope you can find a way to maintain strong monitoring techniques that will hold state's accountable for progress towards haze reduction.

The Environmental Protection Agency has already begun the critical work of combating regional haze. Recreation users, local businesses, and communities around the nation are already enjoying cleaner air. By strengthening the Regional Haze rule, the millions of public land users and visitors around our country can continue to enjoy clean air and memorable experiences in our national parks and protected places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ashley Korenblat
Managing Director
Public Land Solutions