

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

September 1, 2011

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson  
Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to you regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) upcoming revision of its National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) on Particulate Matter (PM), specifically PM-10, and its potential effect on Montana's agriculture sector.

I share concerns with many Montanans about particulate matter pollution. We lead better, healthier lives because of progress made under the Clean Air Act. I also hear frequently from Montanans, especially in agricultural sectors, concerned about new regulations that could have an outsized impact on Montana. Montana is a rural state, and agriculture is the heart of our economy. As you are well aware, PM-10 particles in rural areas are often caused by stirred up dust from dirt roads and cropland.

Given these concerns, I have been encouraged by your recent public statements that EPA does not plan to increase the stringency of rural dust standards. I urge you to follow through with this common sense message when you release the draft revision of the PM-10 standard later this year. The proof is in the pudding.

In particular, I point out that according to the policy assessment produced by your staff in April 2011, it would be appropriate to retain the current PM-10 standard of no more than one instance on average per year over a three-year period of emissions greater than 150 micrograms per cubic meter in a 24-hour period. The policy assessment included important recommendations for further research to clarify uncertainties in existing evidence of the effects of PM-10. It also clearly explained the scientific support behind a conclusion that the current standard protects for health effects associated with short-term exposures to thoracic coarse particles.

Furthermore, the largely urban and still developing body of research about PM-10 does not precisely address the particles, in EPA's words, of "windblown dust of non-urban origin" that are a part of life for Montanans who make a living on the windy wide open prairie.

I look forward to your response, and I appreciate your continued outreach to rural citizens.

Sincerely,

