

DRAFT

DRAFT LETTER TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Send individual letters to the following:

Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.
Rep. Roscoe Barlett, MD
Rep. Christopher Van Hollen, MD
Rep. Steny Hoyer, MD
Rep. Albert Wynn, MD
Rep. Jo Ann Davis, VA
Rep. Tom Davis, VA
Rep. James Moran, VA
Rep. Frank Wolf
Senator Barbara Mikulski, MD
Senator Paul Sarbanes, MD
Senator George Allen, VA
Senator John Warner, VA

I am writing you as Chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC). The Committee has been designated under Section 174 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), for developing a strategy for attaining Federal air quality standards. This assignment is carried out through a partnership among the States of Maryland and Virginia and the Government of the District of Columbia, and the region's local governments in the non-attainment area.

The purpose of this letter is to comment on Section 1443, "the Barton amendment" in the Energy Bill now in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We in the Metropolitan Washington region have mixed feelings about 1443, "Attainment Dates for Downwind Ozone Nonattainment Areas."

We appreciate the fact that the amendment recognizes that downwind states will have difficulty meeting the standard until "upwind" state(s) clean up their pollution. The Metropolitan Washington region is a downwind state; on the worst days of summer the region receives up to 50-70% of its pollution from upwind areas.

However, the Metropolitan Washington region is also an "upwind" state. The region contributes pollution to states downwind such as Delaware and New Jersey. The Barton amendment relaxes the "bump-up" provision of the Clean Air Act, so downwind states would not have to meet the standard until the upwind states reduced their contribution to the downwind states. The amendment effectively removes deadlines for meeting the standard and, in our opinion, would delay indefinitely achievement of cleaner air and a healthy environment for the region's citizens.

States and localities in the Metropolitan Washington, DC-MD-VA have dedicated resources and adopted numerous measures to reduce pollution in the region to meet CAAA deadlines. We are concerned that these actions will be for naught if the states upwind of the Washington region are not held to a deadline.

We hope you will raise these issues when the bill is discussed and voted upon.

Thank you for responding to our concerns regarding the Barton amendment in the energy bill and its potential to delay cleaner, healthier air for the Washington region.

Sincerely,

Dana Kauffman, Chair