



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center
Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460

To the docket:

The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, published on July 30, 2008 in the Federal Register (73 FR 44354 - 44520), entitled *Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Under the Clean Air Act; Proposed Rule*. MDE offers the following comments on this proposed rule.

MDE agrees with the overall comment provided by National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) supporting enactment of a "greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction program with quantifiable and enforceable limits" that reduces U.S. GHG emissions "substantially below current levels in order to lessen dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate." The MDE supports the development of an equitable national program that ensures not only reductions in greenhouse gas emissions but also protects our nation's industrial base in an uncertain economy. The MDE also recommends that any potential national program provide incentives for early actions, reward states that moved forward without national rulemaking, and provides a mechanism for state funding for climate change programs.

Scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that GHGs endanger public health and welfare. If EPA follows the science, the only reasonable outcome would be an affirmative conclusion by the agency that GHG emissions endanger public health and welfare. EPA and the states have a variety of tools under the Clean Air Act for reducing GHG emissions through New Source Performance Standards, mobile sources programs, Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), and New Source Review (NSR) rules. EPA could make the required endangerment finding for new motor vehicle emissions, and allow the numerous states that have passed legislation for California car programs to implement these programs.

As an environmental regulatory agency, MDE is concerned about the distinct possibility that global warming will exacerbate air quality problems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects with virtual certainty declining air quality in cities due to warmer days and warmer nights. Ozone concentrations are expected to increase, exacerbating negative health impacts and impeding attainment efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on the proposed revisions to the greenhouse gas ANPR and we look forward to working with EPA on this critical environmental issue. If you have questions regarding this letter or our comments please contact me or Brian J. Hug of my staff at 410-537-3255 or gaburn@mde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,



George (Tad) Aburn
Director
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