

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chair
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) recognizes that the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is faced with making a difficult decision on the mobile emission budget. We are writing to provide an opinion to help inform the MWAQC's decision.

The ACPAC appreciates that a mobile emissions budget could be established with a margin that would help ensure transportation projects continue into the future. However, we also recognize that a decision based on many uncertain assumptions, such as the composition of the vehicle fleet, the rate of growth of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, and the adoption of new regulatory requirements, may need to be revisited, and taken together may not provide a safety margin projecting more than 25 years into the future.

The ACPAC also recognizes that the Edgewood, Maryland monitor is expected to remain in non-attainment for the ozone standard and that long range transport from the Washington, DC area, especially from more densely populated areas, will make it difficult, if not impossible, for Edgewood to meet the ozone standard.

The ACPAC acknowledges that decision for mobile budgets has a trade-off between ensuring federal support for transportation funding and ensuring that the region will meet air quality standards for protection of health and the environment. The ACPAC has considered the issues and concluded that it would be wise to lower the mobile emissions budget and to not include a safety margin for emissions growth. We offer this advice with the belief that the long-term integrity of the MWAQC is dependent upon decisions that will provide for air quality that will meet standards to protect health and the environment.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely

Caroline Petti, Chair
Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)