

# Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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February 3, 2009

Governor Tim Kaine  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

In October the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) sent a letter to Richard Langford, Chair, Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board, urging the Board to lower the state's opacity standard for new and existing facilities from 20% to 10% to be consistent with standards in Maryland and the District of Columbia. A copy is attached.

We remain concerned about Virginia's opacity standard. We have had no response to our letter. We urge you to encourage the State Air Pollution Control Board to reduce the opacity standard in Virginia to 10%.

Tightening opacity standards in Virginia will provide a cheaper and efficient way of controlling particulate emissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This will be of great benefit to the citizens of Virginia as well as all the citizens in the Metropolitan Washington region.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Sincerely,



Hon. Phil Mendelson, Chair  
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

Enc.

Cc:  
Virginia House delegation  
Virginia Senate delegation