



Clean Air Coalition:

Chairman
Judge Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County

Vice-Chair
Mayor Alan McGraw
City of Round Rock

Vice-Chair
Commissioner
Karen Ford
Hays County

Commissioner
William Pina
Bastrop County

Mayor James Bertram
City of Lockhart

Commissioner
Ron Morrison
Williamson County

Mayor Mike Hendricks
City of Luling

Mayor Marc Holm
City of Elgin

Mayor Susan Narvaiz
City of San Marcos

Mayor Terry Orr
City of Bastrop

Judge H. T. Wright
Caldwell County

Capital Area Council of Governments

PO Box 17848, Austin, TX 78760
512.916.6000 ~ Fax 512.916.6001
www.capcog.org

(Date)

(Name of addressee)

(Title of addressee)

(Address)

Dear (Name of elected official):

We are writing on behalf of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) to invite a representative from (*name of jurisdiction here*) to join our coalition at this critical time for our region's air quality. The CAC is a voluntary association of local government officials working together to achieve compliance with the federal clean air standards in the five-county Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The CAC's work over the years has made Central Texas a national leader in the implementation of proactive, voluntary, air quality planning initiatives. Most recently the CAC was able to rapidly respond to EPA's promulgation of a more stringent standard. The CAC spearheaded the "Big Push", a regional effort to reduce ozone levels this ozone season in order to comply with the 2008 health-based ozone standard. This effort appears to have been successful, as we are nearing the end of ozone season and continue to monitor ozone levels that are in compliance with the 2008 ozone standard. Your jurisdiction, along with several others, passed resolutions supporting the "Big Push". We thank you for your support in making the "Big Push" a success. Working together, we believe we can continue to improve the region's air quality.

We are now faced with a new challenge and hope that we can count on your support. **On September 16, 2009 EPA announced they will propose a new, likely more stringent, standard in December 2009. EPA plans to finalize this standard by August 2010. Current monitoring results suggest that it will be extremely difficult for the Central Texas region to meet a standard more stringent than the 2008 standard.** If the region fails to comply with the 2010 standard EPA will designate some or all of the MSA counties *nonattainment* in August 2011. (The EPA typically uses the entire MSA as the default boundary for a nonattainment designation). A nonattainment designation could result in serious financial and regulatory responsibilities for the MSA. Regardless of our attainment status, improvements in local air quality improve our quality of life. This is especially true for those most vulnerable to high levels of ozone: children, seniors, and people with respiratory disease.

To be successful in meeting this new challenge, the region will need increased participation in every aspect of air quality planning and implementation. The CAC is addressing the region's air quality concerns by continuing to implement the current air quality plan (8-Hour O3-Flex) and additional voluntary measures where possible. The 8-Hour O3 Flex plan allows communities to choose for themselves the most suitable mitigation activities and select the "triggers" that would initiate them.

In response to this crucial time for our region's air quality planning the CAC invites (*name of jurisdiction*) to join the coalition. We recently expanded membership options to foster increased participation. The following levels of participation are available to you:



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- General membership is available to elected officials representing local governments or Independent School Districts within the MSA. General members are voting members of the CAC. They ratify the current air quality plan and implement selected voluntary emission reduction measures.
- Supporting membership is available to entities that support the purpose of the CAC and are willing to report their individual actions regarding air quality improvement to the CAC or Capital Area Council of Governments liaison upon request. Supporting members are not required to attend meetings and do not vote.

Your commitment to become a member of the CAC is vital to the success of our efforts. We encourage you to appoint a representative to the CAC at one of the levels of membership outlined above. Please contact Bill Gill (512-916-6066) or Cathy Stephens (512-974-1861), the CAC Advisory Committee Co-Chairs, to indicate your level of membership and name a representative from your jurisdiction. The next CAC meeting will be held in December 2009, and we look forward to announcing our new members at that time. Cathy and Bill are available to answer any questions you may have concerning the CAC and air quality issues in our region. Together we can protect the healthful air that is every Texan's birthright.

Sincerely,

Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County Judge, CAC Chairman

Alan McGraw
Mayor, City of Round Rock, CAC Vice-Chair

Karen Ford
Hays County Commissioner, CAC Vice-Chair

