

Dear (name of elected official here):

I am writing on behalf of my colleagues in the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) to invite (name of jurisdiction here) to join our efforts in securing clean air for all Central Texans. The CAC, comprising elected officials from area jurisdictions, guides the region's air quality policy in collaboration with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Maintaining clean air is a vital public health issue, particularly for our youngest and oldest constituents. It is also a critical economic issue. Failing to meet EPA air quality standards can entail costly mitigation measures about which the region has little control. Our goal is to remain in compliance, or to return to compliance promptly should EPA find the region in nonattainment of its standard.

The CAC's work established our region as a national leader in proactive, voluntary air quality planning. These efforts have paid off; Central Texas remains in attainment of federal air quality standards despite the region's rapid growth.

The region remains proud of this accomplishment, but we face a new clean air challenge. EPA is proposing a revised standard for ground-level ozone, the pollutant about which we are primarily concerned. Although EPA will not announce the revised standard until July 2011, we anticipate it will be substantially more stringent and will put the region out of compliance.

The CAC is continuing to address the region's air quality concerns during this period of regulatory uncertainty. The region has a voluntary plan, the 8-hour Ozone Flex Plan, designed to keep us in compliance with EPA's existing standard. This program allows our communities to choose for themselves the most suitable mitigation activities. It also allows us to select additional activities to implement as needed. We believe that fully implementing available options in

our existing plan is the best way to protect public health and to prepare for regulatory change.

I encourage (name of jurisdiction) to become a member of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition at this critical time in our region's development. Member jurisdictions must choose from a menu of air quality measures those that they will commit to implement. Member jurisdictions also send a representative to our quarterly meetings where we receive briefings and develop input for TCEQ and EPA.

I will be happy to speak with you about your jurisdiction's role, or to arrange a presentation about our work. We want to have new jurisdictions fully engaged by the beginning of ozone season on April 1. The region needs "all hands on deck" to protect the healthful air that is every Texan's birthright.

Sincerely,