



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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May 27, 2010

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

On behalf of the Western Governors' Association, we are writing to express our support for continued EPA funding of the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP). Over the last 10 years, EPA grants in support of the WRAP have allowed our states to efficiently collect and analyze data that is critical for air quality planning in the West. It is more important than ever that EPA's support for this program continue.

EPA's recent proposal to adopt a more stringent standard for ozone highlights the need for regional planning if we are to effectively address air quality challenges in the West where 75% of our nation's Class I airsheds are located. Increasingly, we find that air quality across the West is affected by regional transport of air pollution from neighboring states and international sources. The Clean Air Act vests responsibility in Governors to address regional transport of air pollution, and we take this responsibility very seriously. Western Governors believe these issues are most effectively addressed through the WRAP. Sufficient and timely EPA funding for WRAP is critical to improving air quality in the West and meeting our state obligations under the federal Clean Air Act.

With membership that includes Western state and local air agencies, tribes, EPA, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management, the WRAP is uniquely positioned to develop solutions in the West that will lead to attainment of federal air quality standards.

The WRAP process will be increasingly important if, as expected, the new ozone standard results in a significant number of rural areas and national parks in the West exceeding federal health standards for the first time. Other factors that highlight the need for regional air quality planning with all levels of government participating include ongoing energy development on federal lands and increased emissions from wildfires. Recognizing these facts, the WRAP recently revised and readopted its Charter to create an organizational structure and mission to address these new air quality challenges.

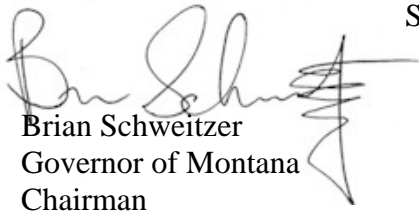
Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
May 27, 2010
Page 2

The 15-state WRAP region encompasses well over half the land mass of the contiguous 48 states, as well as Alaska and Hawaii. The WRAP works with four EPA regional offices (Regions 6, 8, 9, and 10). Existing WRAP databases and regional analysis tools provide the states, tribes, EPA, federal agencies and local governments with an important set of tools and data that are not otherwise available. We know from experience that having all interested parties working together with shared data and tools through the WRAP process is the best way to meet air quality standards in the West.

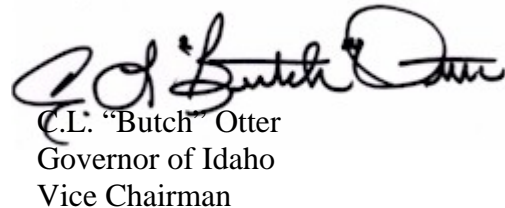
We strongly support EPA's proposed FY11 budget as it pertains to increased funding for state and local air programs. Additional EPA funding to support regional programs like the WRAP is critical to our mutual and ongoing success.

Thank you for your support of our work to improve and protect air quality in the West.

Sincerely,



Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana
Chairman



C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho
Vice Chairman

cc: Ms. Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
Mr. James Martin, Regional Administrator, Region VIII