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Dear Governor Nikki Haley:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the harmful impact that the recently proposed ozone rules will have on America's manufacturers and the nation's economy. Communities across the country are struggling to recover from the worst recession in generations and we need policies that support economic growth rather than increase red tape and cost jobs.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s ozone proposal would put new burdens on commercial and industrial activity vital to creating jobs and growing the economy. The EPA is pursuing more stringent ozone standards even though the air is cleaner than it has been in decades. It is important to note that air quality will continue to improve as the existing ozone standards, and several other air regulations, are implemented. . In fact, in some places, the EPA's proposed standards are so low that they are unattainable. EPA can only identify 55 percent of the necessary controls to comply with the proposed standard.

Stringent ozone standards could not only limit economic expansion in nearly every populated region of the United States, but it will impair the ability of U.S. companies to create new jobs. Ozone standards at the levels proposed by the EPA will directly impact economic vitality of local communities and make it difficult to attract and develop business. These standards will inevitably stunt the economic growth that fuels well-paid jobs that workers depend on.

By the EPA's own estimates, a new ozone rule could cost tens of billions of dollars per year. Independent estimates indicate that the costs will likely be much higher, putting millions of jobs at risk. This new ozone rule has the potential to be the most costly regulation in our nation's history.

In light of the economic hardship a new ozone standard would cause, I encourage you to contact President Obama and the EPA to encourage the retention of the existing ozone standard in the final rule. Our country cannot afford a stricter ozone standard.

Sincerely,
Carroll Hart
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