



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 28, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Among the priorities of our nation, and your administration, is to emerge from the current international economic crisis by creating more American jobs. Critical to that recovery is reducing America's dependence on foreign energy, encouraging domestic job creation and cleaning our air, water and environment.

In recent years, Texas has made great progress in economic, energy and environmental achievement, but these gains are severely threatened by recent actions taken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Earlier this week, EPA took unprecedented steps to quash Texas' federally delegated, successful Title V permitting program and replace it with a less effective Washington-based, bureaucratic-led, command and control mandate.

As you may be aware, Texas began permitting facilities in 1971, six years prior to the existence of any federal air permitting program. Over the past decade, as our state added much of the nation's job, population and economic growth, the Texas clean air program has achieved a 22 percent reduction in ozone and a 46 percent decrease in Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions. Our successful Title V permitting program went into effect in 1994 under Governor Ann Richards and was approved by the Clinton administration.

Texas is improving air quality much faster than the nation as a whole. For example, as national NOx emissions fell by approximately 27 percent between 2000 and 2008, Texas NOx emissions plummeted 46 percent. Texas electricity generators have the 11th lowest NOx emissions rates for all states, according to EPA data. Houston is second only to Atlanta in the total percent decrease in ozone for metropolitan areas since 2000, even with a 20 percent increase in population. Not a single county in Texas is in nonattainment for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), one of the pollutants with the greatest effect on human health.

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Penalizing Texas will undermine those significant environmental and economic successes and harm America's leading producer of domestic energy, refined products and chemicals. The facts prove that Texas' air quality permitting program is achieving significantly cleaner air while encouraging jobs and economic growth.

If not for the state permitting program that EPA now opposes, grandfathered coal-burning power plants would still be allowed to emit pollution without any controls, and EPA would have absolutely no recourse. Texas' program alone brought about a more than 80 percent reduction in emissions, totaling hundreds of thousands of tons, from facilities in the state. Additionally, dismantling our state program, as is currently being pursued by EPA, will cause existing permitted emissions to increase from the same facilities with which EPA has expressed concern.

EPA's unwarranted actions will kill good American jobs, reduce our economic output, and undermine critical domestic energy and petrochemical supplies for all 50 states. Worse still, EPA's actions are unwarranted, given the tremendous air quality improvements that have been made in Texas.

In the interest of protecting air quality gains, American jobs and domestic energy supplies, I respectfully and strongly request that you stop EPA's efforts to take over the Texas air quality program already delegated to our state as was allowed for and contemplated in the Federal Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The letters are in a cursive, slightly slanted font.

Rick Perry
Governor

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cc: Texas Congressional Delegation
Ms. Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, EPA
Ms. Carol M. Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, White House