



**CHATTANOOGA**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 23, 2008

The Honorable Phil Bredesen  
Governor of Tennessee  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0001

Dear Governor Bredesen:

As Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce in Tennessee's four largest cities, we realize that our air quality must be protected, but we must also work to balance that with economic growth and prosperity for our regions. **As such, we ask you to urge the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to preserve the existing air quality standard for ground-level ozone at 0.08 parts per million.** Administrator Johnson will make this decision before March 15, 2008.

Right now, sixteen counties in Tennessee are in non-attainment status and all are working to reach attainment. If a tougher standard of up to 0.060 ppm is approved, an additional 38 urban, suburban, and rural Tennessee counties across the state will be out of compliance. It would hinder economic development efforts, diminish our ability to attract new manufacturing jobs, and jeopardize our federal transportation and infrastructure funding.

As you know, state officials bear the ultimate responsibility of implementing the standard. Changing it before the current standard has been fully implemented, and its impacts are completely evaluated; will impose a significant administrative burden on TDEC, local governments and regulatory agencies, and businesses.

Our communities are making progress toward meeting the current air quality standard. Citizens, businesses, and governments have all made significant investments of time and resources to reach attainment, and these efforts will not cease. EPA should not implement stricter standards prior to a thorough review of the current standard's benefits.

We'd look forward to discuss this issue in greater detail as it relates to our particular communities.

Sincerely,

Tom Edd Wilson  
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce

John Moore  
Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce

Mike Edwards  
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

Ralph Schulz  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce