

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2011

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Office of the Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Room 3000, Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC. 20004

Dear Administrator Jackson:

Earlier this year, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper submitted a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to EPA to reduce regional haze pollution in existing Class I areas in Colorado. The SIP has been reviewed and endorsed by the state's electric utilities, conservation organizations, the bipartisan state legislature, the governor, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. We ask that you give strong consideration to approving the plan as a whole so Colorado can continue its record of environmental and economic progress.

The SIP submitted earlier this year is designed to significantly reduce harmful emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and other pollutants in Class I areas in Colorado under the requirements of the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze program. Having been subject to state-administered environmental and economic assessments, the plan will address visibility concerns in treasured national park and wilderness areas that are at the heart of Colorado's tourism and recreation industries, as well as quality of life.

In working to achieve these important goals, Colorado followed an exemplary and inclusive stakeholder approach that has earned Colorado's proposal broad support within the state. The Colorado Air Quality Control Commission conducted several public hearings to collect input from both public and private sector partners. The hearings included participation from relevant state government agencies, regional utilities, and organizations focused on resource protection. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission reviewed and approved many of the emissions reductions included in the SIP. The SIP also received broad, bipartisan support in both houses of the state legislature, something that speaks to its balanced and thoughtful approach to reducing harmful pollution.

Colorado's proposed SIP is an aggressive and achievable plan for pollution reduction. We urge you to give it full and prompt consideration for approval so that the people of Colorado can realize its benefits as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact our offices with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

Diana DeGette
U.S. Representative

Doug Lamborn
U.S. Representative

Ed Perlmutter
U.S. Representative

Mike Coffman
U.S. Representative

Jared Polis
U.S. Representative

Cory Gardner
U.S. Representative

Scott Tipton
U.S. Representative