



September 12, 2011

Dear President Barack Obama,

As members of Latino organizations and leaders of the undersigned Latino organizations we are writing to express our disappointment at your decision to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to drop their revision of the ozone standard. This decision leaves hundreds of millions of people in the United States facing an unacceptable level of risk from the air we breathe.

Latino businesses, organizations and leaders cannot simply look the other way when a decision like this one, that affects our community so greatly, is made. Doing so would ignore the fact that with each breath, one out of every two Latinos in America increases his or her risk of asthma, bronchitis or even death, due to poor air quality.

This decision benefits polluters while directly affecting our family members, friends, and colleagues. It leaves millions of us in harm's way by leaving in place standards set by the Bush administration in 2008 that EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's recognized, were 'not legally defensible given the scientific evidence.'

Our growing population –like so many others in the U.S. today--cannot bear the burden of the additional unforeseen costs that come from asthma attacks, medication, hospitalizations or school or work days missed due to high ozone levels. Our country needs healthy people in order to thrive.

We, and the constituents we represent, now call on you to support other critical air pollution rules. We are counting on you to stand strong.

Sincerely,

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Voces Verdes

Arturo Carmona
Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en
Norteamérica

Brent Wilkes
League of United Latin American Citizens

Dr. Elena Rios
National Hispanic Medical Association

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