

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings-and-votes/hearings/hr-4775-ozone-standards-implementation-act-2016>

H.R. 4775, Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prmKsNHp5ws>

Thursday, April 14, 2016 - 10:15am ET

Location:

2322 Rayburn

H.R. 4775, Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016

Subcommittees:

- [Energy and Power \(114th Congress\)](#)

Witnesses

Mr. Misael Cabrera

Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

- [Witness Statement](#)
- [Witness Invitation](#)
- [Truth in Testimony and CV](#)

Mr. Alan Matheson

Executive Director, Utah Department of Environmental Quality

- [Witness Statement](#)
- [Witness Invitation](#)
- [Truth in Testimony and CV](#)

Mr. Ali Mirzakhali

Director, Division of Air Quality, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

- [Witness Statement](#)
- [Witness Invitation](#)
- [Truth in Testimony and CV](#)

Mr. Seyed Sadredin

Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

- [Witness Statement](#)
- [Witness Invitation](#)
- [Truth in Testimony and CV](#)

Dr. Bryan W. Shaw

Chairman, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality

- [Witness Statement](#)
- [Witness Invitation](#)
- [Truth in Testimony and CV](#)

Text of Legislation

- [H.R. 4775, Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016](#)

Documents

- [Hearing Notice](#)
- [Background Memo](#)
- [Document for the Record - Statement for the Record from EPA Acting Assistant Administrator McCabe](#)

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF03/20160414/104778/HHRG-114-IF03-20160414-SD002.pdf>

III. BACKGROUND

Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants, including ground-level ozone¹ (1 Criteria pollutants include ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and lead. See EPA NAAQS website). Ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), from either manmade or natural sources, in the presence of sunlight. According to EPA, since 1980 ozone levels have declined by over 30 percent.

EPA initially established an ozone standard in 1971, and subsequently revised the standards in 1979, 1997, and 2008.² The standards set in 2008 established an 8-hour standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb), replacing a 1997 standard equivalent to 84 ppb. See 73 Fed. Reg. 16,436 (March 27, 2008). In 2012, EPA designated over 230 counties in 26 states and the District of Columbia as being wholly or partially in nonattainment with the 2008 standards.³ EPA did not publish implementing regulations until March 6, 2015, and states are currently in the process of implementing those standards.⁴

In October 2015, EPA also promulgated a new 8-hour ozone standard of 70 ppb.⁵ Based on the most recent monitoring data (2012-2014), 241 counties in 33 states would violate this standard.⁶ This does not include contiguous counties that do not exceed 70 ppb, but that may be designated to be in nonattainment,⁷ or the more than 2,400 counties that do not currently have ozone monitors.⁸ Under the agency's current schedule for implementing the 2015 ozone standards, states must submit designation recommendations by October 1, 2016,⁹ and EPA would designate areas as being in nonattainment by October of next year.