

August 1, 2016

President Kevin J. Worthen
Brigham Young University
(sent via email with receipt confirmed)

Dear President Worthen,

I am an environmental epidemiologist and physicist who has had a long academic career at UCLA and I am an expert in the health effects of air pollution in California. I am writing to you because findings on fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and mortality by BYU Professor of Economics C. Arden Pope, III, are being used to justify multi-billion dollar air pollution regulations in Southern California. Since 1995 Dr. Pope has published epidemiologic evidence that PM2.5 is weakly associated with an increase in total mortality in the United States. However, overwhelming evidence from over a dozen sources, including studies by both Dr. Pope and me, shows that there is NO relationship between PM2.5 and total mortality in California (<http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/NoPMDeaths112215.pdf>). Furthermore, a very strong case has recently been made by nine accomplished experts, including myself, that “Particulate Matter Does Not *Cause* Premature Deaths” (https://www.nas.org/articles/nas_letter).

Since Dr. Pope refuses to communicate with me in any meaningful way, I respectfully request that you ask him to send me a YES or NO answer to the following question: “Do you support the way that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has used three epidemiologic studies co-authored by Pope (Jerrett et al. 2005, Krewski et al. 2009, and Jerrett et al. 2013) to calculate their ‘Preliminary Health Impacts – Mortality’, knowing that that these preliminary mortality impacts are the primary public health justification for a Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) that will impose an estimated \$38.2 Billion in compliance costs on the South Coast Air Basin economy?” The July 28, 2016 SCAQMD slides containing the preliminary mortality impacts and preliminary AQMP costs are attached to this letter, with full details at this weblink (http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/meeting-agendas-minutes/agenda?title=STMPRSocio_072816). A table summarizing all studies of PM2.5 and total mortality in California, with the 2005, 2009, and 2013 studies highlighted in red, is also attached.

If Dr. Pope refuses to answer my question, then I request an answer from you or any BYU academic who you specify. Because the AQMP is being finalized this summer, I request a timely response, hopefully by August 15, 2016. Until I receive a response to the contrary, I will assume that the official BYU answer to my question is YES. Please let me know if you need more details about this request.

Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely yours,



James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
jenstrom@ucla.edu
(310) 472-4274