

WESTERN STATES AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL



April 17, 2009

Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air (Nominee)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Funding for the Western Regional Air Partnership

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

On behalf of the Western States Air Resources Council (WESTAR), an association of 15 western State air quality program administrators, congratulations on your nomination as the Environmental Protection Agency's Assistant Administrator for Air. We look forward to working with you in the coming years as we face the air quality management challenges ahead of us.

EPA will soon decide how fiscal year 2009 \$105 grant funds will be allocated, including a modest but very welcome increase over 2008 funding levels. As you consider your choices for allocating these funds, we want you to be aware of the importance of the support provided by regional planning organizations (RPOs) to states as they address regional air quality issues, as we explain in the attached letter sent to Administrator Johnson last April. EPA has included at least \$2.5 million in funding for RPOs for the past ten years, and the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) has requested continued funding in fiscal year 2010. By providing funding to the RPOs in the 2009 budget, EPA will help to ensure that the RPO's technical infrastructure is maintained and is available to state and local agencies. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss regional technical support in the western states. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Johnson, WESTAR's Executive Director at 206-254-9145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Bauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Bauer, President
Western State Air Resources Council

Cc: WESTAR State Air Directors
Elizabeth Craig, Acting Assistant Administrator for Air
Patrick Cummins, WRAP Co-Director
Lewis McLeod, WRAP Co-Director
Andy Ginsburg, Co-Chair, NACAA Funding Committee
Colleen Cripps, Co-President, NACAA