



**JIM FOSTER**  
DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE

August 31, 2007

Mr. Richard Greene  
Administrator, Region 6  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Greene:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has constructed a clean air plan for Dallas County and the rest of the DFW metroplex that is supposed to eliminate our smog and get the area into compliance with the Clean Air Act.

I am writing to express my hope that you will reject the state's plan, because the one the state has written will undoubtedly fail. You should demand a new one that actually has a chance of success.

The state is hoping that you will approve a plan that lacks any real reductions in emissions between now and our target date for clean air in 2010. But without real emissions reductions, it is unlikely that our ozone smog problem, and the orange and red alerts that go with it, are going to disappear on their own.

What is most frustrating is that local elected officials, including representatives from the City of Dallas, Dallas County, the chambers of commerce, and citizen groups collectively approved a series of clean air resolutions last October through the North Central Texas Council of Governments. These resolutions asked the state to adopt a number of pollution-cutting measures. These included rolling out the power plant emission levels that are in effect in the Dallas and Houston metro areas to all the power plants in east and central Texas, and also testing advanced pollution control technology at the giant cement plants in Ellis County.

Neither of these proposals were adopted by the state and they are not in the clean air plan you are reviewing. It is the residents of Dallas County and the eight other counties in our region that are breathing the polluted air, and our voices must be considered when the state takes action that directly affects us.

In addition, your own agency, the federal EPA, reviewed the draft version of the clean air plan back in December, and you asked the state to strengthen it with measures such as making the computer modeling more rigorous and testing advanced pollution controls on the cement kilns. The state not only ignored your requests, but in fact they seriously weakened the draft plan under pressure from polluters.

The state is not taking local or federal input seriously, and their lack of concern about our smog problem is harming public health. Their carelessness is especially putting children and the elderly at risk for respiratory problems. Dallas County's own Parkland Hospital is treating increasing numbers of children with smog-induced asthma attacks. Parkland is also admitting growing numbers of adults with cardiovascular problems that get worse on high smog days.

Public health reasons alone are enough for you to reject the weak clean air plan on your desk. But in addition, smog puts an economic hit on our local economy.

Companies like Toyota and Boeing with numerous high-quality jobs are being courted away from DFW by cities with cleaner air. Existing industry in DFW is finding it more difficult to expand manufacturing because of limits imposed on cities that fail to meet clean air standards. Taxpayers are having to pay the bills for uninsured children who seek life-saving treatments at our hospitals, and business productivity suffers when mothers and fathers have to stay home to take care of their sick children.

The Clean Air Act rightfully gives local, state, and federal officials roles in developing and approving clean air plans. Unfortunately, the state has chosen to disregard many aspects of local and federal input in the current plan you are now reviewing. I urge you to use your authority under federal law to reject the state's plan, force the state to take local and federal input seriously, and require real emissions reductions from polluters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Foster", written in a cursive style.

Jim Foster  
County Judge