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State of Wyoming
Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Bldg., room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: 09-1101

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regard to Docket number 09-1101, toward the issue of Whether the Council should accept the petition filed by the Petitioners. I strongly believe you should accept that the petition has merit to lower the ozone standard to 65 ppb in Sublette County. The federal government dropped the ball when it set the ozone standard at 75 ppb. Science and hard data were ignored in favor of political expediency. The State of Wyoming should be applauded for its efforts to regulate and improve air quality in and around Pinedale; it should seize this opportunity to take a stand for what's right for the health of its citizens.

I grew up in Cheyenne and have lived in Pinedale for over 12 years. I have had asthma since I was 7; every day I need to take an inhaler because I wheeze. I am an outdoor enthusiast and love cross country skiing, fishing and hiking. I am now a mother of two young children. I have seen the air quality of the Pinedale area worsen through the years. It is alarming to see the ozone levels recorded at local monitoring stations. For a county of our population to go from near-pristine air quality (with Class I airsheds dominating the sky) to smog levels akin to downtown L.A. is inexcusable. It is wrong, it is ugly, and it is harmful to the health of those who have to breathe it. I worry about the health of my children, whose young lungs inhale that stuff while we're outside playing in the park. Between their pre-disposition to asthma and the environment they are growing up in, I fear for the effects on their lungs (not to mention mine). I like to play and recreate outside, and I like to do so with my kids. It kills me to think I should hesitate to do so on some days because of high ozone levels..

The petition prepared by C.U.R.E.D. lays out the facts and the argument very well. I don't need to repeat them. They speak for themselves when evaluated objectively. The state can, and has in the past, set more restrictive standards for pollutants than the federal government requires. The Environmental Quality Council should recommend to the Governor that an ozone standard of 65 ppb be applied to Sublette County. It is what's in the best interests of our citizens and our health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Rogers