



## IDAHO - EASTERN OREGON SEED ASSOCIATION

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July 20, 2016

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Air Quality, Crop Residue Burning  
1410 N. Hilton Street, Boise, Idaho 83706

RE: Additional Comments – Docket No. 58-0101-1601 – Rules for Air Quality

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Idaho Eastern-Oregon Seed Association (IEOSA) and its 105 seed company and affiliate business members, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Department for continuing with the Negotiated Rulemaking process to allow stakeholder comments to be provided. The IEOSA's membership contracts with seed producers who need the use of fire as a tool to produce a viable seed crop, therefore, it has been important for our organization to be a part of these discussions.

In our May 23, 2016 letter, our Association agreed to a 90% ozone standard as well as some reduction of PM 2.5 as a reasonable compromise. During the June Negotiated Rulemaking meeting we were informed by the Department that due to the inability of providing any sound science to warrant a reduction in PM 2.5 that 75% of the NAAQS for PM 2.5 and 90% for ozone were standards still on the table. We agreed to these standards in our June 28, 2016 letter. We continue to agree to these standards based on the current available data moving forward to the July 27, 2016 meeting.

In preparation for the July 27, 2016 meeting our Association asks that the Department take into consideration the following information as you begin formulating a final DRAFT set of Rules for consideration:

- Since 2008 there have not been any hospitalizations or deaths associated with Crop Residue Burning. This statement is also confirmed in the February 17, 2015 CRB Advisory Committee Meeting minutes. There is nothing wrong with the current CRB Program and how it has helped protect human health across the state.
- PM 2.5 is not the issue we should be discussing - ozone is. Ozone is the standard that was tightened by the EPA last fall. Ozone should be the standard we compromise on during these negotiations. We have gotten off-base discussing a

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potential reduction in PM 2.5 as an apples-to-oranges comparison for increasing the percentage for ozone. The EPA has not tightened PM 2.5 standards. These standards should not be on the table.

- No best available science has been presented to warrant a reduction in PM 2.5. Our Association sees a reduction in PM 2.5 as a compromise that no longer needs to be made. Doing so would chip away at our current burning program and impact the amount of days our producers would be allowed to burn. North Idaho producers would be hit the hardest.
- EPA stated during the July 20<sup>th</sup> Rulemaking meeting that it would be willing to accommodate a 90% ozone standard for Idaho if a PM 2.5 reduction compromise was not reached as long as this met EPA's requirements to protect human health.
- Idaho has adopted more stringent standards than the national standards EPA has set (75% of the NAAQS). Idaho has implemented these stringent standards for many years because we care about human health and wish to protect it. We are not proposing to re-negotiate the stringency of these health protection standards, to "chip away" or "loosen" these standards like some in the environmental community have asserted during the Rulemaking process.
- DEQ has the ability to consider approval of a burn day by using the 80% one-hour criteria for particulate matter. This continues to provide an additional safety net to support human health.

On behalf of Idaho's Seed Industry thank you for your attention to this letter and for allowing our comments to be submitted that we feel address the facts as well as our continued goals to protect human health and preserve a viable crop residue burning program for our producers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB', written over a horizontal line.

Roger Batt, Executive Director