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August 5, 2016

John Martin, Chair

Garfield County Board of County Commissioners

Board of County Commission Administration

108 8th Street, Suite 101

Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601

Morgan Hill

Air Quality Program Coordinator

Environmental Health Specialist III

Garfield County Public Health

2014 Blake Avenue

Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Dear Mr. Martin and Ms. Hill:

Thank you for the letter dated June 30 sharing your concerns about our 17th annual State of the Air report. We appreciate that we share the goal to ensure that the air is safe and healthy for all the citizens in the Garfield County. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

We have copied you on our response to the letter from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. In addition to those concerns, you shared additional ones with us that we would like to respond to in this letter.

We include Garfield County in the metropolitan area of Edwards-Glenwood Springs, Colorado, because we follow the definition of metropolitan areas established by the White House Office of Management and Budget and followed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In the full metro area, there are more than 128,000 people, including more than 30,000 children under age 18 and 13,000 adults over age 65 who face higher risk from ozone pollution. You might be surprised that Edwards-Glenwood Springs, Colorado is not the smallest city on our list of cities with the most ozone pollution: Sheboygan, Wisconsin, with more than 115,000 people, ranked as the 22nd most-polluted city.

We are pleased that Garfield County has installed multiple ozone monitors. We sincerely applaud you for taking steps to ensure that this

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crucial information is available to your citizens who depend on the Garfield County Health Department to tell them the truth about risks to their health and to take steps to protect their health. To reiterate the clarification we made in our response to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, we do not double-count days that may show up as unhealthy on more than one monitor. We have long encouraged all counties and states to ensure that they have sufficient monitoring to provide such health-protecting information. Extensive monitoring helps us as a nation better identify and reduce the pollution that too many people breathe too often. We have also long urged adequate funding from Congress to help all counties and states to achieve such monitoring.

Finally, we welcome the opportunity to talk further with you and your colleagues about the information contained in our report. We've been fortunate over the past seventeen years to have had multiple opportunities to speak with and work with air pollution control agencies throughout the nation as we develop our report and review the data we present each year. Please let us know to whom we should approach to coordinate such a conversation.

Again, we thank you for sharing your concerns with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul G. Billings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul G. Billings
Senior Vice President, Advocacy

Cc: William C. Allison V Director, Air Pollution Control Division Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

