



AMC Statement Regarding EPA’s Evaluation of Existing Regulations
Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OA–2017–0190

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is the nation’s oldest conservation and recreation organization with over 100,000 members, supporters, and advocates with twelve Chapters from Maine to Virginia. Our constituency is comprised of people who love the outdoors and for whom outdoor recreation is a part of life—they hike, fish, bike, paddle, ski, and just enjoy spending time in nature. Our mission is to promote the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of America’s Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. We believe these resources have intrinsic worth and also provide recreational opportunities, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the region. Because successful conservation depends on active engagement with the outdoors, we encourage people to experience, learn about, and appreciate the natural world.

The AMC is part of a thriving outdoor recreation economy worth \$887 billion annually, including \$7.3 million in American jobs, and \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue¹. Healthy land, air, and water are crucial to people who recreate outside, and so are also crucial to the vitality of the outdoor recreation economy. We are deeply concerned about the threat to regulations that we see as essential to protecting the outdoors.

EPA’s mission is to protect public health and welfare, which includes ensuring clean air and water, healthy ecosystems and wildlife, and addressing the human contribution to climate change. Since air pollution knows no state boundaries, national regulations are necessary for EPA to carry out this mission. EPA must ensure that states implement and enforce regulations in accordance with the Clean Air Act, which was passed and implemented with bipartisan support.

We have seen overwhelming evidence across the Northeast that Clean Air Act regulations are working, including significant declines in acid rain, improvements in ozone and visibility, and improving water quality. This is not the time to modify or remove tools that are effective while

¹ <http://oia.outdoorindustry.org/economy>

additional gains are still needed to meet statutorily required targets such as those identified in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The AMC urges the Environmental Protection Agency, its agents, and/or the United States Congress, to not repeal, replace or weaken air, water, and climate related regulations but instead to continue to work to effectively enforce and implement these critical protections for the outdoors.

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