Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

JAN 19 2005

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

On behalf of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC), we are pleased to present to you a report and list of recommendations from the Committee for your consideration. CAAAC is a senior-level committee consisting of senior managers and experts representing state and local government, environmental and public interest groups, academic institutions, unions, trade associations, utilities, manufacturing industries and others. The Committee provides advice and counsel to EPA on a variety of important air quality issues.

In 2004, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies released a report entitled *Air Quality Management in the United States*. In this report, the NRC outlined the many substantial achievements of the U.S. air quality management system over the past 30 years. The NRC also identified areas where changes in the air quality management (AQM) system would provide further benefits to human health and the environment. The NRC advanced recommendations for change in the AQM system on a number of levels. Some of the NRC's recommendations involve short-term changes of limited scope and immediate impact. Other NRC recommendations focus on more sweeping changes to the nation's approach to AQM over the mid- to long-term.

For the past six months a CAAAC Work Group has evaluated ways to improve the current air quality management system in this country. The recommendations of the NRC helped guide this Work Group. On December 16 the Work Group advised the CAAAC about the desirability and feasibility of implementing a number of near-term recommendations to improve the current system. The AQM Work Group included representatives from State and local organizations, Tribes, regional organizations, environmental and public health organizations, industry and EPA. This report outlines near term recommendations for improvements in air quality management in the United States and also proposes a continuing process for discussion of longer term changes. It focuses on translating the relatively broad NRC recommendations into specific and concrete steps that can be taken quickly by EPA and others to realize improvements in science, technology, policy, and planning that will lead to improved air quality and public health protection

While the CAAAC reached consensus on forwarding the recommendations for further examination by EPA, individual members were also given an opportunity to submit additional comments on the recommendations. Comments submitted in writing by CAAAC members are included as an appendix of this report. CAAAC does recognize that there are potential resource implications associated with some of these recommendations for EPA and its partners in air quality management. The CAAAC hopes that resources can be made available to implement these recommendations appropriately.

On behalf of the Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to participate in EPA's activities and hope our advice is useful in developing air quality management strategies.

Sincerely,

Janet McCabe, Co-Chair
Air Quality Management Work Group
Group

Gregory Green, Co-Chair
Air Quality Management Work

Jeff Holmstead, Chair
Clean Air Act Advisory Committee