



E. SCOTT PRUITT
ADMINISTRATOR

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Charles G. Snavelly
Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet
State of Kentucky
300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Secretary Snavelly:

Thank you for your April 18, 2017, letter petitioning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for an opt-out of the federal reformulated gasoline program. The petition applies to Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties (the Northern Kentucky Area), which are part of the Cincinnati-Hamilton, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana maintenance area for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The EPA has worked with Kentucky to complete the steps required to opt out of the RFG program in these counties and to assure a smooth transition. Through this letter, I am notifying you that I have approved the state's petition based on the rules governing the RFG program and actions recently taken by the Commonwealth. As a result of my approval of your petition, federal RFG will no longer be required in the Northern Kentucky Area as of July 1, 2018.

The EPA's RFG regulations provide the process and criteria for a reasonable transition out of the federal RFG program if a state decides to opt out. See 40 CFR 80.72 for further details. Since Kentucky's April 18, 2017, petition, we have worked together to fulfill the statutory and regulatory requirements for the opt-out of RFG in the Northern Kentucky Area.

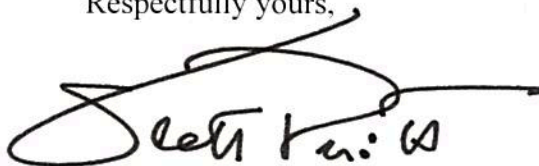
As part of this work, on September 13, 2017, Kentucky submitted a revision to its maintenance plan for the Northern Kentucky Area to remove the emissions reductions associated with the use of RFG in this area and to demonstrate that the RFG opt-out would not interfere with the area's ability to attain or maintain the 2008 ozone NAAQS and any other NAAQS, as required by *Clean Air Act* section 110(l). The EPA's Region 4 office published a final approval of the maintenance plan revision and non-interference demonstration on April 2, 2018, which was effective upon publication. The regulations provide that the opt-out effective date shall be no less than 90 days from the EPA State Implementation Plan approval effective date. A *Federal Register* notice that evaluates Kentucky's petition to opt out of the RFG program in the Northern Kentucky



Area and grants the EPA's approval of the petition will be publicly available soon. The notice also serves to inform the public of the July 1, 2018, effective date of the opt-out.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff may contact Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-5200 or at lyons.troy@epa.gov.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

E. Scott Pruitt

cc: The Honorable Matt Bevin
Trey Glenn, EPA Region 4