## **NACAA** Priorities Letter

- On Jan 15, 2021, NACAA sent a letter to the Administration of President Biden outlining seven priority areas:
  - Environmental Justice
  - Respect for State Authority and CAA's Cooperative Federalism
  - Ensure Scientific/Technical Integrity in EPA Core <u>Actions</u>
  - Advance Programs to Protect Public Health and Address Climate Change
  - Reset Permitting & Enforcement
     Priorities
  - Improve Technical Assistance to States
  - Increase Federal Funding



Improving Our Nation's Clean Air Program:
Recommendations from the National Association of Clean Air Agencies to
President-Elect Biden's and Vice President-Elect Harris' Administration

January 15, 2021

## Introduction

The National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA)¹ offers the following recommendations for consideration by the Administration of President-Elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris related to key issues associated with our nation's clean air and climate programs.

The Clean Air Act gives state and local governments a primary role in preventing and addressing air emissions that harm public health and create environmental damage. Founded in 1980, NACAA is the nationwide organization of state and local air pollution control agencies that are front and center in fulfilling this responsibility. The Biden-Harris Administration – and the new Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – should develop a strong relationship with NACAA to implement its agenda of protecting clean air, preventing pollution, addressing climate change and achieving environmental justice. In so doing, NACAA looks forward to being a partner in EPA's efforts to address the following seven priority recommendations:<sup>2</sup>

- 1) Center Environmental Justice
- 2) Respect State and Local Authorities as a Pillar of the Clean Air Act
- 3) Ensure Scientific and Technical Integrity for Core EPA Actions
- Advance New EPA Programs to Protect Public Health and the Environment and Address Climate Change
- 5) Reset Permitting and Enforcement Priorities to Emphasize Public Health and Equity
- 6) Improve Technical Assistance to State and Local Air Agencies
- 7) Address the Urgent Need for Significant Increases in Federal Funding

This document elaborates on these recommendations, which are broad-based and meant to be illustrative rather than comprehensive. NACAA welcomes the opportunity to meet and offer greater

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www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/NACAA2021PresidentialTransitionDocument-01152021.pdf

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

<sup>1</sup> NACAA is the national, nonpartisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies in 41 states, including 115 local air agencies, the District of Columbia and four territories. The air quality professionals in our member agencies have vast experience dedicated to improving air quality in the U.S. These recommendations are based on that experience. The views expressed do not represent the positions of every state and local air pollution control agency in the country.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In Attachment 1 to this document we provide links to relevant NACAA comments, testimony and recommendations from the last four years. Although these items address issues related to agency proposals that occurred in the past, as the incoming Administration reviews actions taken by the outgoing Administration to determine next steps, and EPA advances initiatives on clean air and climate change, we commend our comments to you as a source of information that may be instructive for future actions.