



PHIL BREDESEN
THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

14 January 2005

The Honorable Michael Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

Congratulations on your recent nomination to the post of Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The State of Tennessee is committed to protecting the health of our citizens in many ways, especially by ensuring that our air is healthy to breathe. Therefore, I encourage EPA to adopt a national multi-pollutant strategy as quickly as possible. Air pollutants originating out of state are significantly impacting Tennessee's ability to reduce pollutant levels measured in state. Success in reducing regional pollutants requires a federal multi-pollutant strategy.

Implementing a national strategy will create real reductions in particulate matter and ozone across states, which will assist non-attainment areas to achieve the new ambient air quality standard. Along with protecting human health and the environment, a national strategy will ensure that Tennessee's economy does not unfairly shoulder the burden of out-of-state pollution contributing to our non-attainment problems.

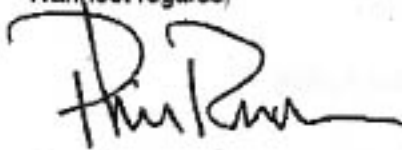
Timely federal action is also needed to protect the visibility in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This incredible asset requires an effective regional approach to ensure its beauty for future generations. Consequently, EPA should make the Great Smoky Mountains National Park a national priority so that it can receive the additional funding and attention it deserves.

Let me again offer to assist you and the Agency in designing and coordinating a regional forum where southeastern states can work together in addressing the shared challenges and responsibilities of protecting our nation's most visited national park.

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Thank you for your service as EPA Administrator. I look forward to building on our relationship as you assume your new role as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bredesen". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Phil Bredesen

cc: Betsy L. Child, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality