

# What's at Stake for Illinois with New Ozone Regulations?

**Manufacturers Face Billions in Costs for Ozone Regulation.** The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new ozone regulation is one of the most expensive regulations in U.S. history. We have made incredible progress over the past 35 years, cutting ozone levels by one-third nationwide. This progress will continue without the new ozone rule.

**No-Growth Zones Expand in Illinois, Growth Stifled.** Despite decades of air quality improvements, the administration decided to throw hundreds of counties into nonattainment, stifling growth in many parts of the country. Up to 45 counties in Illinois exceed the EPA's new standards, counties that are home to 427,041 manufacturing jobs. The barriers created by nonattainment are impacting manufacturers today.

**Local Voices Disregarded.** Ignoring pleas from leaders in Illinois, the administration chose to set new targets before communities across the country could come into compliance with the 2008 ozone standards.

**Outdated Law Ignores Current State of the Environment, Lacks Flexibility.** The administration set ozone standards so strict that many communities find themselves in nonattainment despite the fact that the majority of their ozone comes from natural sources or sources in foreign countries.

**Rigid and Unrealistic Deadlines Rarely Met, Make Little Sense.** Unrealistically short five-year "review cycles" for ozone and other air quality standards lead to overlapping regulations. The EPA regularly exceeds these five-year deadlines, opening the door to lawsuits and creating an uncertain regulatory landscape for manufacturers.

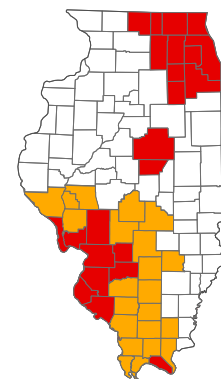
**Time for Congress to Restore Balance.** Manufacturers need Congress to step up, provide much-needed implementation relief and revise this decades-old policy to give states more flexibility and adopt a policy that better reflects manufacturing and the 21st-century economy.

"The Illinois EPA recommends that the final ozone NAAQS rule contain flexibility that allows states to avoid drastic and needless measures that might result if there are unusual meteorological conditions that are beyond a state's control... Absent such flexibility, states could be required to promulgate overly restrictive regulations that will unnecessarily harm industry for no real environmental benefit."

— Lisa Bonnett, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Comments on the EPA's Proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone (March 17, 2015)

**Figure 1:** Areas Exceeding the EPA's 2015 Ozone Standards (70 ppb)

- Areas with Monitors
- Unmonitored but Likely to Exceed 70 ppb



Based on a three-year period, 2012–2014.  
Sources: URS, August 3, 2015; ESRI

# Counties in Illinois Exceeding the EPA's Ozone Standards

## at Risk to Be No-Grow Zones

County	Ozone Level (ppb)
Cook	81
DeKalb	81
DuPage	81
Grundy	81
Kane	81
Kendall	81
Lake	81
McHenry	81
Will	81
Bond	78
Calhoun	78
Clinton	78
Jersey	78
Macoupin	78
Madison	78
Monroe	78
St. Clair	78
Greene	74
Montgomery	74
Washington	74
Perry	73
Morgan	73
Scott	73
Jackson	73
Williamson	73
Alexander	73
Marion	72
Jefferson	72
Fayette	72
Randolph	72
Massac	72
Union	72
Franklin	72
Boone	72
Winnebago	72
Pike	72
Christian	71
Pulaski	71
Johnson	71
De Witt	71

County	Ozone Level (ppb)
McLean	71
Shelby	71
Pope	71
Saline	71
Clay	71

Based on a three-year period, 2012–2014; modeled and interpolated data.  
Sources: URS, August 3, 2015; ESRI