

What's at Stake for **North Carolina** 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 North Carolina, 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 seven counties in North Carolina exceed the EPA's new standards, counties that are home to 77,740 manufacturing jobs. The barriers created by nonattainment are impacting manufacturers today.

Local Voices Disregarded. Ignoring pleas from leaders in North Carolina, 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Outdated Law Ignores Current State of the Environment, Lacks Flexibility.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.

"In the four decades since the Clean Air Act was signed into law, North Carolina has implemented a comprehensive air quality program that has resulted in unprecedented improvements in air quality...Your agency's proposed ozone standard for ground-level ozone raises a number of troubling concerns."

— Donald R. van der Vaart, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Comments on the EPA's Proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone (March 13, 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 **North Carolina** Exceeding the EPA's Ozone Standards at Risk to Be No-Grow Zones

County	Ozone Level (ppb)
Cabarrus	73
Gaston	73
Iredell	73
Lincoln	73
Mecklenburg	73
Rowan	73
Union	73

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

www.nam.org/ozone