

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Anneka Wisker, (202) 572-3308, [awisker@momscleanairforce.org](mailto:awisker@momscleanairforce.org)

### **116,000 Parents Call for Stronger Smog Standards**

*Moms Clean Air Force delivered 116,000 comments to EPA calling for strengthening the Ozone NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standard) to 60 parts per billion*



Washington, DC (March 17, 2015) – Today Moms Clean Air Force members and their children delivered 116,000 public comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asking for a strengthened Ozone NAAQS to protect public health – especially that of young children, people with respiratory disease, and the elderly. EPA’s independent panel of scientists reviewed the vast body of scientific evidence linking smog exposure to health problems and concluded: the standards should be lowered to 60-70 parts per billion (ppb), from the current allowable level of 75 ppb. The science is clear. Breathing smog at 75 ppb is unhealthy. Today these 116,000 parents asked EPA to set a standard of 60 ppb to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are protected from the adverse health effects of smog exposure.

“Parents have a right to know the truth about whether the air is safe to breathe.” said Molly Rauch, public health policy and outreach manager for Moms Clean Air Force. “Smog standards that reflect current science will protect children from harmful air pollution.”

“Breathing smog is like getting a sunburn on your lungs. I would never send my children to the beach without sun protection – why would I let them play outside when there is smog? My 3-year old daughter suffers from asthma and she needs strong national pollution standards to protect her tiny lungs from smog,” said Gretchen Dahlkemper, a Pennsylvania mother who delivered the comments with her daughter. Smog is a well-established trigger of asthma attacks, the hallmark symptom of a disease suffered by close to 1 in 10 American children. Stronger smog standards would prevent hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, according to EPA.

Comments from Moms Clean Air Force members and activists are among more than 500,000 comments that have flooded EPA in support of stronger smog standards during the public comment period, which closes today. All call for a ground level ozone limit of 60 ppb to adequately protect unborn babies, pregnant women, young children, people with respiratory disease, and the elderly.

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*Moms Clean Air Force is a community of moms and dads united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children’s health. We arm members with reliable information and solutions through online resources, articles, action tools and on-the-ground events.*

*More here: <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/>*