

# CLEAN AIR BOARD

*of Central Pennsylvania, Inc*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Clean Air Board Urges EPA to Revise Ozone Standard**

*Carlisle, PA (August 31, 2007)* – The Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania, Inc. (CAB) submitted oral and written testimony at the EPA's public hearing on revising the ozone air quality standard, held in Philadelphia on August 30. Clean Air Board president, Rev. Jennifer McKenna, noted that ozone pollution, commonly called smog, is undermining the health of the residents of central Pennsylvania.

Three members of CAB testified at the public hearing, including Dee Delp and Charles Hooker, Jr. Both are Cumberland County residents who suffer from asthma and chronic pulmonary obstructive disease. Breathing air containing ozone can reduce lung function, thereby aggravating asthma and other respiratory conditions, and leading to increased doctor visits, increased emergency room visits and hospital admissions. EPA is required by law to review its air quality standards every five years.

CAB urged the EPA panel to reduce the current ozone standard, 0.08 parts per million to one below 0.070 parts per million. EPA's own Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee has stated that the primary ozone standard should be between 0.060 ppm and 0.070 ppm to protect the public health. The Cumberland Valley experiences very high ozone concentrations in the summer, even on days when an ozone alert is not declared.

The Clean Air Board was formed in the fall of 2005 after over 100 Cumberland County physicians signed and published in the newspaper an open letter informing the community of the growing danger of ozone and particulate pollution.