

Moab City Council Agenda Item
Meeting Date: February 8, 2022

Title: Regional Haze Letter to EPA

Presenter: Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Sustainability Director

Attachment(s): Draft letter, Sierra Club memo

Recommended Motion: I move to approve the letter to EPA Administrator of Region 8 in support of pollution controls on power plants in Utah via the Regional Haze Program of the Clean Air Act.

Background/Summary: There are two remaining large coal-fired power plants in Utah - Hunter and Huntington - which are required to comply with clean air regulations. Part of these regulations are in regards to haze-producing pollutants in national parks. This aspect of the Clean Air Act is called "Regional Haze." In 2016, Moab played a pivotal role in engaging the EPA and producing a strong haze rule, which was incorporated into the Federal Implementation Plan for pollution control at both plants in 2016. This plan was never adopted and implemented, due to rule rollbacks after the federal administration changed.

With the new administration, and new Region 8 EPA Administrator, KC Becker, there is an opportunity to engage the EPA anew and encourage them to reinstate the pollution-control requirements from 2016, which would reduce haze-causing pollutants by 76% from Hunter and Huntington power plants. Retrofit technology has only become more available, and the parks continue to be impacted by anthropogenic haze.

The intention of this letter is to voice support at the local level for Regional Haze controls and introduce Moab to the new EPA administrator. The climate change and clean energy goals of the current administration align well with pollution-controls, and the Hunter and Huntington plants directly impact our region's skies. Enforcing the regulations agreed upon in 2016 would benefit the health and economy of Moab and our neighboring communities.