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## **Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Air Quality Improves** *U.S. EPA designates three Northern Kentucky Counties as in Attainment*

**Cincinnati, OH** – Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) Board President and Clermont County Commissioner Edwin Humphrey today announced the U.S. EPA has re-designated Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties as in “attainment” for fine particulate pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

“We are very excited to hear this great news,” said Humphrey. “We will continue to work to improve air quality throughout the OKI region to enhance the quality of life in our communities.”

The Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky region has been working to meet the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard for several years. PM<sub>2.5</sub> refers to microscopic particles in the air that measure 2.5 microns or less in diameter, which is about 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

The particles are dangerous because they can be easily inhaled deep into lungs and harmful to children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems. Children’s lungs are not fully developed and are more prone to infections. The elderly can have pre-existing cardiovascular problems and their lungs, heart and immune system tend to be weaker and more susceptible to illness. People with respiratory problems have poor lung function that can be exasperated because of poor air quality.

“One of OKI’s key responsibilities is to provide information to the public on what each individual can do to improve the air they breathe,” said OKI Executive Director Mark Policinski. “The new designation of being in attainment is a testament that if people change their behavior and take action they can make a difference and help our environment.”

OKI is a council of local governments, business organizations and community groups committed to developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs to improve the quality of life and the economic development potential of the Tri-State.

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