

February 19, 2002

Dear Governors:

I invite you to join me on May 10, 2002, for the Fourth Annual Governors' Summit on Air Quality. The summit will be held at the Hilton Hotel University Place in Charlotte, North Carolina. The governor's session will start in the morning on Friday, May 10, with adjournment by mid-afternoon.

Since the first Governors' Summit on Mountain Air Quality in 1999, it has become clear that we must work together as a region to understand and to tackle the air pollution problems that confront our individual states. We know that protecting and improving air quality is essential to safeguard public health, protect our natural resources and promote the long-term economic vitality of the South.

At this year's summit, we expect to benefit from the work of the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative, a multi-year study examining air quality in the region that is drawing to a close in the Spring. We also look forward to reviewing the results of the first year of collaboration under the Southern Air Principles, which were signed last year by Governors Don Sundquist of Tennessee, Roy Barnes of Georgia, Jim Hodges of South Carolina and myself. This document, which is attached, calls on signatory states to develop a joint strategy to address smog, acid rain and haze.

Working with the Southern Governors' Association, we will expand the program this year beyond mountain air issues to focus on emerging air issues for our region. We will follow up with you and your staff regarding additional details.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Easley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Easley