



James R. Fouts - Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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June 30, 2023

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Governor Whitmer:

Today, Michigan holds the dubious title as the most polluted area in the world. We are ground zero for the heavy pollution coming from burning Canadian forest fires. This Canadian inferno has been going on for nearly two months. So far, little has been done to contain it.

The Detroit area is dangerous to breathe air. Many outdoor activities may be cancelled or likely will be due to the clouds of timber pollutants overhead. One of the most celebrated outdoor weekends is before us. This means millions of people will be outdoors at beaches, at picnics, and at home barbecues. Many will be utilizing fireworks to celebrate the fourth for days to come. Yet this smoky air is likely to take a toll on wild life, trees, and human life.

I urge you to deputize the Michigan National Guard and send many volunteer guard members along with volunteer firefighters to Canada to assist Canada in stopping the inferno that threatens the safety of us all.

All hands on deck for this situation since Michigan is directly in the line of these out of control Canadian forest fires. There are 13 million acres of Canadian forest fires and at least 500 wildfires.

Air quality readings in Michigan are through the roof. It has not been a good day to be outside in the Detroit area. Unless we make major efforts to contain this fire, it is likely to go on all Summer and maybe even all Fall.

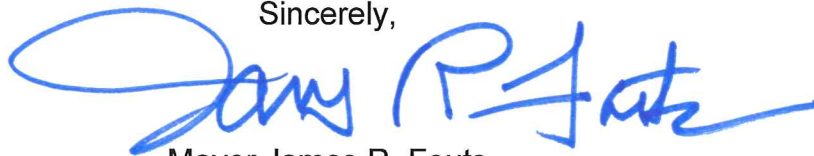
This is a national emergency and action must take place now as we have already failed to do much in two months.

We need to have strong guidelines as to what to tell the public about what they need to do to be safe outdoors. Such questions:

- 1) Should everyone be wearing a mask outdoors?
- 2) Should the mask be a KN95 mask?
- 3) Should people be barbecuing?
- 4) Should fireworks go on as planned?
- 5) What about pets who live outdoors? Are small children safe outdoors?
- 6) Mowing the lawn advisable or not?
- 7) Baseball and other outdoor events? Is there a guideline for when they should be cancelled?

In effect, how can we protect the public? Unless these 500 fires are contained this is likely to go on all Summer and Fall disrupting the lives of millions in Michigan. I hope you will consider my request to work toward containment of the fires and guidelines for protecting the Michigan public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James R. Fouts". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mayor James R. Fouts
City of Warren, Michigan