



Date

Re: California Health Organizations Support Strong Clean Air Act

Dear Senator/Representative:

The undersigned public health and medical organizations in California urge you to protect our health from dangerous air pollution. Please oppose any legislation that would block, weaken or delay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's work to update and enforce strong safeguards for California's air.

California's residents need healthy air to breathe – especially the 800,000 kids and 2.3 million adults with asthma, 1.4 million people with COPD, and 2 million people with heart disease and 3 million with diabetes. All of them could be at higher risk of health impacts from harmful air pollution. In addition to the at risk groups above, air pollution is associated with lung cancer.

While there is still work to be done to clean up the air we all breathe, the state has made great progress. Thanks to the federal Clean Air Act, and leadership by California, important investments have been made to reduce air pollution and protect public health. Healthy air saves lives, reduces asthma attacks, and is a smart investment.

Our organizations urge you to support the continued implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act, and oppose any legislation that would block, weaken, or delay it. This includes legislation that attacks the Clean Air Act directly, such as by delaying or blocking specific air pollution standards or weakening EPA's ability to set future standards that are based soundly in health science.

In addition, California's authority to set and enforce its own vehicle standards allowed under the Clean Air Act is critical for our state to meet our clean air goals and protect public health. California's children and other vulnerable populations need you to fight for improved air quality, not allow polluters more freedom to foul the air we breathe.

We also urge you to oppose any legislation that would make it harder to set public health safeguards, not only at EPA, but at all federal agencies. Legislation currently under consideration in Congress, under the guise of "reform" to the regulatory process, would actually make it more difficult to protect California residents from harm. Californians need agencies like EPA to implement and enforce core, proven public health laws like the Clean Air Act.

The undersigned California public health and medical organizations ask you to support full implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act and resist any efforts to weaken, delay or block its life-saving public health protections. Further we call on you to protect California's important authority to establish vehicle emission standards to protect our communities. We call on you to speak out publicly in defense of the fundamental human right of all Californians to breathe healthy air.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Charter Director, Air Quality and Climate Change
American Lung Association in California