

An Open Letter to Congress from Groups Protecting Public Health

April 4, 2011

Dear Senator/Representative:

Representing public health and medical professionals and other clean air advocates, we stand united in calling on you to uphold the Clean Air Act and to reject any measure that would block or delay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from doing its job to protect all Americans from life-threatening air pollution.

Forty years ago, Congressional leaders from both parties wrote and passed the Clean Air Act. This law directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect public health and the environment. Since then this wise congressional legacy has saved lives and improved the quality of life for millions of Americans.

But the job is not yet done. Far too many of our communities still suffer from poor air quality. Too many families, particularly those of lower income, face the impacts of toxic air pollution every day. And far too many of our nation's children, elderly, and people with asthma, cardiovascular and lung diseases and diabetes live under added threats to their health from breathing polluted air and the impacts of global warming.

Over the coming years the EPA will be fulfilling its duty to reduce the smog and soot pollution, air toxics, and global warming pollution that are the cause of these public health threats. We urge you to fully support the EPA in fulfilling this responsibility. Doing so is quite literally a matter of life and death for tens of thousands of people and will mean the difference between chronic debilitating illness or a healthy life for hundreds of thousands more.

Once again, we urge you to support moving forward with protective clean air standards and to oppose any measure that would delay or block progress toward a healthier tomorrow for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Alabama Chapter of the American Thoracic Society (ATS)
American Lung Association in Alabama
Cahaba Riverkeeper
Conservation Alabama
Group Against Smog and Pollution
The Shalom Center
Union for Reform Judaism

Alaska

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
American Lung Association in Alaska

Arizona

American Lung Association in Arizona
Arizona Asthma Coalition
Environment Arizona

Arkansas

American Lung Association in Arkansas

California

350.org
American Lung Association in California
Breathe California
California Academy of Family Physicians
California League of Conservation Voters
California Public Health Association-North
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton
Catholic Healthcare West
Center for Biological Diversity
Citizen's Coalition for a Safe Community
Coalition for Clean Air
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
EcoEquity
Energy Independence Now
Environment California
Environmental Law Foundation
Families for Clean Air
Global Community Monitor
Global Green USA
Healthy Child Healthy World
Interfaith Power and Light
KyotoUSA
Napa County Asthma Coalition
Pacific Environment
Physicians for Social Responsibility, SF-Bay Area Chapter
Planning and Conservation League
Prevention Institute
Public Health Institute
Rainforest Action Network
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
Rose Foundation for Communities & the Environment
San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition
Sierra Club
Siskiyou County Public Health Dept.

The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies
TURN-The Utility Reform Network
Voces Verdes

Colorado

Advanced Asthma Allergy and Immunology
American Lung Association in Colorado
Colorado Conservation Voters
Colorado Environmental Coalition
National Environmental Health Association
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Wilderness Workshop

Connecticut

American Lung Association in Connecticut
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut
Connecticut Nurses' Association
Conservation Law Foundation
CT Coalition for Environmental Justice
Enviro Energy Connections
Environment Connecticut
The Great Land Conservation Trust

Delaware

American Lung Association in Delaware
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
IMPACT Delaware Tobacco Prevention Coalition
Learning Express Academy
Learning Express Pre-school

District of Columbia

Alliance for Climate Protection
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Lung Association in the District of Columbia
American Public Health Association
American Rivers
American Thoracic Society
Breakthrough Technologies Institute, Inc.
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Children's Environmental Health Network
Clean Air Watch
Clean Water Action
Climate Protection Action Fund
Community Action Partnership
Consumers Union
Defenders of Wildlife
Earth Day Network
Earthjustice
Energy Action Coalition

Environment America
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Integrity Project
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
GREEN DMV
Green For All
Greenpeace USA
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the United States
Metropolitan DC Thoracic Society
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Audubon Society
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
National Consumers League
National Latino Coalition on Climate Change (NLCCC)
National Parks Conservation Association
National Physicians Alliance
National Wildlife Federation
Oil Change International
Pew Environment Group
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Citizen
Safe Climate Campaign
Solar Energy Industries Association
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Wilderness Society
Trust for America's Health
Union of Concerned Scientists
US Climate Action Network
Voices for Progress
World Wildlife Fund

Florida

American Lung Association in Florida
Common Ground for Conservation
Environment Florida
Farmworker Association of Florida
Florida Academy of Family Physicians
Florida Conservation Alliance
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Georgia

American Lung Association in Georgia
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mothers & Others for Clean Air
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Hawaii

American Lung Association in Hawaii
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hawaii Thoracic Society
Preserve Pepeekeo Health & Environment

Idaho

Climate Solutions
American Lung Association in Idaho

Illinois

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation and National Home Oxygen Patients Association
American Bottom Conservancy
American College of Chest Physicians
American Lung Association in Illinois
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago Clean Energy Alliance
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment
Eco-Justice Collaborative
Environment Illinois
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Protestants for the Common Good
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

Indiana

American Lung Association in Indiana
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Valley Watch, Inc.

Iowa

American Lung Association in Iowa
Environment Iowa
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Kansas

American Lung Association in Kansas
Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy
Kansas Public Health Association
Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment [WIRE]

Kentucky

American Lung Association in Kentucky

Louisiana

American Lung Association in Louisiana
Louisiana Bucket Brigade

Maine

American Lung Association in Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Environment Maine
Frannie Peabody Center
Green Alliance
GrowSmart Maine
Lamey-Wellehan Shoes
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Migrant Health Program
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maine People's Alliance
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Portland Public Health Division
The Maine League of Young Voters

Toxics Action Center
Violence No More Inc.

Maryland

1Sky
American Lung Association in Maryland
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Environment Maryland
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Massachusetts

Global Warming Education Network
American Lung Association in Massachusetts
Ceres
Clean Air Task Force
Conservation Law Foundation
Environment Massachusetts
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Toxics Action Center Campaigns

Michigan

American Lung Association of Michigan
Ecology Center
Environment Michigan
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center
Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club
Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
Michigan Thoracic Society
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Minnesota

Alliance for Sustainability
American Lung Association in Minnesota
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)
Duluth Audubon Society
Environment Minnesota
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Fresh Energy
Helen Harris, Assistant Professor at
Minnesota University Moorhead School
of Nursing; RN, MS
Institute for Energy and Environmental Research
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Izaak Walton League of America - Minnesota Division
League of Women Voters - Minnesota
League of Women Voters - Red River Valley Chapter
Mankato Area Environmentalists
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Conservation Federation
Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
Minnesota Renewable Energy Society
Minnesota State University Student Wildlife Society
Neighbors Against the Burner
Renewing the Countryside
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Sierra Club, Red River Valley Chapter

Sierra Club, Red River Valley Chapter
St. Paul Audubon Society Chapter
Student Environmental Alliance - Concordia College
Take Back the Air
Transit for Livable Communities
Vicki Teske, MS, GNP, BC
Will Steger Foundation
Windustry
Women's Environmental Institute
Zimmer Environmental Improvement LLC

Mississippi

American Lung Association in Mississippi

Missouri

American Lung Association in Missouri
Concerned Citizens of Perryville
Environment Missouri
Missouri Votes Conservation
StraightUp Solar

Montana

American Lung Association in Montana
Climate Solutions
Environment Montana
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Nurses Association
Plains Justice
RiverStone Health
Western Organization of Resource Councils

Nebraska

American Lung Association in Nebraska

Nevada

American Lung Association in Nevada
Environment Nevada
Nevada Conservation League
Nevada Public Health Association
Nevada State Medical Association
Pulmonary Medicine Associates
Pulmonary Medicine Associates, Reno Nevada

New Hampshire

American Lung Association in New Hampshire
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
Conservation Law Foundation
Green Alliance
Greenovations
New Hampshire Audubon
New Hampshire Pediatric Society
Revolution Energy, LLC
Toxics Action Center

New Jersey

American Lung Association in New Jersey
Center for the Sublime Arts
Environment New Jersey
National Center for Bicycling & Walking
New Jersey Thoracic Society
NJ/NY Environmental Watch

New Mexico

American Lung Association in New Mexico
Environment New Mexico
WildEarth Guardians

New York

Adirondack Mountain Club
American Lung Association in New York
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York
Clean New York
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)
Education for Global Warming Solutions
Environmental Advocates of New York
Federated Conservationists of Westchester County
Grassroots Environmental Education
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council, (NRDC)
New York Interfaith Power & Light
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
New York Thoracic Society
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
Pace Energy and Climate Center
Renewable Energy Long Island
West Harlem Environmental Action
Women's Environment and Development Organization

North Carolina

American Lung Association in North Carolina
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
Charlotte Energy Solutions
Clean Air Carolina
Cleveland County Asthma Coalition
Health Occupations Students of America
Mecklenburg County Medical Society
Media Savvy Marketing, Inc
NC Conservation Network
NC League of Conservation Voters
NC Waste Awareness & Reduction Network
North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light
North Carolina Pediatric Society
Pitt County Memorial Hospital
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Canary Coalition
Western North Carolina Alliance

North Dakota

American Lung Association in North Dakota
Dakota Resource Council
Dakota Resource Council Clean Energy Task Force
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Grand Forks County Citizen Coalition
Institute for Complementary & Alternative Medicine
Sisters of the Presentation, Fargo
South Agassiz Resource Council
Western Organization of Resource Councils

Ohio

All Aboard Ohio
American Lung Association in Ohio
Buckeye Forest Council
Earth Day Coalition
Environment Ohio
Environmental Law & Policy Center
GreenCityBlueLake Institute
Heights Community Congress
New Agrarian Center
Ohio Asthma Coalition
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio Society for Respiratory Care

Oklahoma

American Lung Association in Oklahoma

Oregon

American Lung Association in Oregon
Climate Solutions
Environment Oregon
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Interfaith Power and Light
Oregon Thoracic Society
The Resource Innovation Group
Western Organization of Resource Councils

Pennsylvania

Allergy and Immunology Interest Group at Penn State College of Medicine
Allergy Section Penn State University
American Lung Association in Pennsylvania
Center for Creative Activities
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
Clean Air Council
Conservation Consultants, Inc.
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Democracia Inc.
DRMIII Ride For Asthma
Eartright
Edifice Rx
Energy Opportunites, Inc.
Family Health Council of Central PA, Inc.
Fourth Economy Consulting
Gettysburg Hospital- WellSpan Health
Group Against Smog & Pollution
Healthy Adams County Tobacco Prevention Task Force
Healthy Communities Partnership of Greater Franklin County
HMJ PATCH Program
iGrok, Inc.
Northern Dauphin County Branch YMCA
PA Association of School Nurses and Practitioners
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
PA Public Health Association
PennEnvironment
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
Pennsylvania Thoracic Society

Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Pittsburgh
Practical Energy Solutions
PrePEAR
Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
Pulmonary Associates, PC
Reed Group
Sierra Club, SE PA Group
Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Justice Office
Students for Environmental Action
Sustainable Pittsburgh
The Center for the Celebration of Creation
Untours

Rhode Island

American Lung Association in Rhode Island
Conservation Law Foundation
Environment Rhode Island
People's Power & Light
ProsperityForRI.org
Rhode Island Thoracic Society

South Carolina

American Lung Association in South Carolina
Coastal Conservation League
Conservation Voters of South Carolina
New Rosemont Homeowners Association
South Carolina Native Plant Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Trinity Episcopal Church, Abbeville, SC

South Dakota

American Lung Association in South Dakota
Dakota Resource Council
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Western Organization of Resource Councils

Tennessee

American Lung Association in Tennessee
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
TN Conservation Voters

Texas

Air Alliance Houston
American Lung Association in Texas
Argyle-Bartonville Communities Alliance
Dallas Downriver Club
Downwinders at Risk
Environment Texas
Flower Mound Defense Fund
Old Town Neighborhood Association

Texas League of Conservation Voters

Utah

American Lung Association in Utah
Breathe Utah
Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Utah Moms for Clean Air
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition

Vermont

American Lung Association in Vermont
Conservation Law Foundation
Idle-Free VT Inc.

Virginia

American Lung Association in Virginia
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Environment Virginia
Health Care Without Harm
National Association for Medical Direction of
Respiratory Care
The Nature Conservancy
Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Washington

American Lung Association in Washington
Climate Solutions
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Environment Washington
World Temperate Rainforest Network

West Virginia

American Lung Association in West Virginia
Northern WV Occ. & Env. Evaluations, LLC

Wisconsin

American Lung Association in Wisconsin
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition
Wisconsin Asthma Coalition
Wisconsin Environment
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

Wyoming

American Lung Association in Wyoming
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Wyoming Conservation Voters
Wyoming Outdoor Council