



American
Public Health
Association

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Protect, Prevent, Live Well

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Whitfield and Ranking Member Rush:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the public, I write in strong opposition to H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011. APHA previously testified in opposition to this legislation during a February 9 hearing before the Subcommittee. This legislation would undermine the Clean Air Act by blocking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from moving forward with regulating carbon and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and threaten public health.

Climate change is a public health issue and is one of the greatest threats to human health. Scientists from across the globe have stated in the strongest possible terms that the climate is changing and that human activity is to blame. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has unequivocally concluded that greenhouse gas is causing global warming and the United States is a leading contributor of greenhouse gases globally. The public health effects of climate change include: increased likelihood of more frequent and intense heat waves, more wildfires, degraded air quality, more flooding, increased drought, more intense storms, harm to water resources and harm to agriculture. Given the serious public health implications of current and increasing greenhouse gas emissions, we strongly oppose any effort to overturn EPA's Clean Air Act protections for these pollutants.

Since its enactment, the Clean Air Act has saved lives and improved the quality of life for millions of Americans and the benefits of improving air quality have far outweighed the costs. We strongly urge you to oppose this misguided legislation and any other legislation that would block or delay EPA from doing its job to protect all Americans from life-threatening air pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Georges C. Benjamin'.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power