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March 10, 2011

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Whitfield and Ranking Member Rush:

The American Lung Association strongly opposes H.R. 910, legislation that would block the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update clean air standards. If passed by Congress, this legislation would interfere with EPA's ability to implement the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act prevents tens of thousands of adverse health effects caused by air pollution, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and even premature deaths each year. EPA's recent report *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020* found that cutting pollution through the Clean Air Act will save \$2 trillion by 2020 and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually.

The public strongly opposes Congress blocking EPA's efforts to implement the Clean Air Act. A recent bipartisan survey, which was conducted for the American Lung Association by the Republican firm Ayres, McHenry & Associates and the Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research indicates the overwhelming view of voters:

- 69 percent think the EPA should update Clean Air Act standards with stricter limits on air pollution;
- 64 percent feel that Congress should not stop the EPA from updating carbon dioxide emission standards;
- 69 percent believe that EPA scientists, rather than Congress, should set pollution standards.

This legislation would strip away sensible Clean Air Act protections that safeguard Americans and their families from air pollution. Americans have these protections because over the past 40 years Congressional leaders of both parties worked together to protect the lives and health of their constituents. We strongly urge the Subcommittee to reject H.R. 910 and support the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor  
President and CEO

cc. The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Members Subcommittee on Energy and Power