

**Natural Resources Defense Council * League of Conservation Voters
Center for Biological Diversity * Environment America * Conservation Law Foundation
National Audubon Society * The Wilderness Society * Earthjustice
U.S. Climate Action Network * Center for American Progress Action Fund * American Rivers
Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club * Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund * Union of Concerned Scientists**

March 9, 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 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:

On behalf of the millions of members, activists, and supporters our organizations represent, we urge you to oppose H.R. 910 introduced by Representative Upton (R-MI). This reckless legislation puts America's health, prosperity, and national security at risk by gutting the Clean Air Act, overturning a decision of the Supreme Court, and dismantling the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to address life-threatening carbon dioxide and other pollution.

For 40 years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has protected our health by cleaning up life-threatening air pollution. This legislation would abolish the EPA's authority to do this critical job, giving big polluters a free pass to spew carbon dioxide and other pollution without limit. Stopping the EPA from doing its job now means more Americans will suffer ill health, not fewer; more clean energy jobs outsourced overseas, and fewer American jobs here at home; and more American dollars spent keeping us addicted to foreign oil.

The Clean Air Act has been successful in reducing dozens of different air pollutants, thereby protecting the health and the environment of millions of Americans—all while contributing to America's economic prosperity. Time and again industry has made dire claims in order to avoid its responsibility for the pollution it pumps into our air. And time and again the industry predictions have proven false. In fact, for every dollar spent Americans have received 30 dollars in economic benefits in return, making H.R. 910 the equivalent of burning money.

By blocking future EPA clean car standards, H.R.910 also locks Americans into paying billions of dollars more at the pump and locks the nation as a whole into greater dependency on foreign oil. The current vehicle standards made possible by the Clean Air Act will cut our dependence on foreign oil by

about 1.8 billion barrels, clean up the air we breathe, save consumers \$3,000 over the lifetime of the vehicle, and keep tens of billions of dollars here in our economy rather than being sent overseas for oil. EPA's vehicle standards are saving 25 percent more oil and providing nearly \$60 billion more in savings at the pump than fuel economy standards alone. At a time when every dollar counts and we continue to send billions of dollars to hostile regimes, we should be finding ways to repeat the success of the clean car peace treaty, not stand in its way.

Most importantly, H.R. 910 would condemn millions of Americans to increased health threats. Medical professionals, public health organizations, and overwhelming scientific evidence all agree that carbon pollution is a serious public health issue. From more extreme heat, worsened air quality and degradation of food and water supplies, to increases in respiratory illnesses and catastrophic weather events, unchecked carbon pollution exposes more Americans—and populations around the world—to illness and death.

Once again, we urge you to oppose H.R. 910. Doing so means standing up for our health, our economy, and our environment. After decades of delay, the American people deserve the cleaner air, better health, and saved lives that can be made possible by the Clean Air Act.

Cc.

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy & Commerce

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy & Commerce

Members of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power