

**American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Trust for America's Health**

March 14, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

We the undersigned write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 910. We believe that this legislation would block the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from setting sensible safeguards to protect public health from the effects of air pollution.

Our organizations are keenly aware of the health impacts of air pollution. The Clean Air Act guarantees all Americans, especially the most vulnerable, air that is safe and healthy to breathe. Despite tremendous air pollution reductions, more progress is needed to fulfill this promise.

If passed by Congress, this legislation would interfere with EPA's ability to implement the Clean Air Act; a law that protects the public health and reduces health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including: cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, emergency department visits, hospitalization and premature deaths. A rigorous, peer-reviewed analysis, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020*, conducted by EPA, found that the air quality improvements under the Clean Air Act will save \$2 trillion by 2020 and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually.

Additionally, 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.

H.R. 910 would strip away sensible Clean Air Act protections that safeguard Americans and their families from air pollution. We strongly urge the Committee to support the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,

Charles Connor
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Lung Association

Bill McLin
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cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee