

**American Lung Association  
FY17 Recommendations to the  
U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
April 15, 2016**

**Testimony Submitted by Harold P. Wimmer  
National President and CEO**

**Environmental Protection Agency**

Federal Support for Air Quality Management – \$171 million  
Categorical Grants: State and Local Air Quality Management – \$268.2 million  
Categorical Grants: Tribal Air Quality Management – \$12.829 million  
Climate Protection Program – \$115.9 million  
Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program – \$100 million  
Categorical Grant: Radon – \$8.1 million  
Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs – \$103.6 million  
Compliance Monitoring – \$111.3 million  
Enforcement – \$282.7 million

The American Lung Association is pleased to present our recommendations for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) to the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. The work to monitor and clean up harmful air pollution funded by this subcommittee will prevent asthma attacks, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and premature deaths across the country. Founded in 1904 to fight tuberculosis, the American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research.

**Support and Defend EPA's Programs to Address Climate Change and Improve Air Quality**

Mr. Chairman, the Clean Air Act is a key public health safeguard. It is especially important for populations most at risk, including those with asthma and other lung diseases; children; older adults; people living in low-income communities; people who work, exercise or play outdoors; and people with heart disease and diabetes. We urge you to invest in protecting public health from the impacts of dangerous air pollution. **We also urge you to reject any policy riders that would block, delay or weaken EPA's ability to save lives and improve public health by reducing air pollution, including carbon pollution from power plants and ground-level ozone pollution.**

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## State, Tribal, and Local Government Work to Improve Air Quality

The American Lung Association requests that the subcommittee provide **\$171 million for Federal Support for Air Quality Management**. The Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program assists states, tribes, and local air pollution control agencies in the administration of programs and standards to protect the air we breathe. States have the primary responsibility for developing clean air measures necessary to meet federal standards, but rely on support and assistance from EPA to create effective comprehensive air quality management programs. The EPA also supports training for state, tribal, and local air pollution professionals on rulemakings and other significant actions.

The American Lung Association also requests that the subcommittee provide **\$268.2 million for Categorical Grants: State and Local Air Quality Management and \$12.829 million for Categorical Grants: Tribal Air Quality Management**. State, local and tribal air pollution agencies need more funding, not less, to ensure proper protection of the public through implementation of the Clean Air Act. These agencies are on the front lines of vital efforts to improve air quality and protect public health, yet they are perennially underfunded. This must change in order to secure the benefits promised by Clean Air Act protections.

## Climate Change

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to public health, including lung health. The health threats posed by climate change include worsened air pollution, the spread of diseases into new areas, stronger and longer heat waves, and more frequent and severe droughts. The EPA has a critical role to play in reducing carbon pollution, methane, and other climate pollutants and must have the resources needed to meet the challenge ahead. Reducing climate pollutants will save lives and protect health. We request that the subcommittee provide **\$115.9 million for the Climate Protection Program**.

## Radon

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and the EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants are the only nationwide program that helps prevent exposure to it. States and tribes depend on this program as well as technical assistance through the Radon Programs to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen. In 2003, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that radon kills 21,000 people each year. We request that the subcommittee provide **\$8.1 million for the Categorical Grant for Radon**.

## Reducing Pollution from Vehicles

We request that the subcommittee provide **\$100 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program**. Ten million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions through the DERA program. The Subcommittee's continued investments in this program have yielded up to \$13 of public health benefit for every \$1 spent on diesel projects, according to an EPA report to Congress from February 2016.

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The American Lung Association also requests that the subcommittee **fully fund EPA's Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs at \$103.6 million**, particularly to improve the effectiveness of the certification and compliance testing programs in the face of increasing demand, more challenging oversight requirements, and the increasing diversity of technologies. Currently, EPA conducts very limited testing of small imported engines, but a high fraction of these engines fail the test. Additional resources are needed to improve testing, including on-road testing, and compliance for this important program to protect public health.

### **Monitoring and Enforcement**

The American Lung Association requests that the subcommittee provide **at least \$111.3 million for EPA's Compliance Monitoring & \$282.7 million for Enforcement**. To protect public health, EPA must ensure that air pollution standards and requirements are met. EPA must, therefore, have the ability and funding needed to reduce non-compliance, as well as enforce penalties for violations. EPA must also be prepared to respond to civil enforcement actions authorized by the Clean Air Act.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Chairman, air quality is crucial for health. Air pollution can harm anyone, but is particularly dangerous for children, people over 65, people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases, people with cardiovascular disease and diabetes, people living in poverty, and people who work or exercise outdoors. Our nation has made significant progress in reducing levels of dangerous outdoor air pollution. We urge this subcommittee to continue making investments into EPA's life-saving work toward fulfilling the promise of the Clean Air Act: healthy air for all to breathe.

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