

**Statement of Paul G. Billings
Vice President, National Policy & Advocacy
American Lung Association
March 28, 2012**

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FY 2013**

Summary: Funding Recommendations (Dollars in \$Millions)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	
Improving Air Quality and Addressing Climate Change	
• Federal Stationary Source Regulation	\$34.1
• Federal Support of Air Quality Management	\$134.8
• Climate Protection Programs	\$108.0
• Clean Air Allowance Trading Program	\$20.8
• State and Local Air Quality Management Grants	\$301.5
• Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grants	\$30.0
• Federal Vehicle and Fuels Certification	\$101.9
State Indoor Radon Grants	\$8.0
Indoor Air: including Radon Program	\$4.1
Research: Air, Climate and Energy	\$105.8
Enforcement	\$15.8

The American Lung Association is pleased to support the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) program to improve the nation’s air during fiscal year 2013. The American Lung Association was founded in 1904 to fight tuberculosis and today, our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. **We urge the Committee to support ensuring that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the necessary resources to protect the public health from air pollution, and we urge the Committee to pass an FY 2013 bill free from any policy riders.**

Protecting the public from the health threats of pollution is a core mission of the EPA, and it has a long history of success. Furthermore, the public expects EPA to implement the Clean Air Act and strongly supports EPA’s effort to reduce air pollution. In March, we released a bipartisan public opinion poll that shows strong public support the EPA’s efforts to update clean air protections. Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of voters say that we do not have to choose between air quality and a strong economy – we can achieve both. And a 2-to-1 majority (60 to 31 percent) believes that strengthening safeguards against pollution will create, not destroy, jobs by encouraging innovation.

Implementing the Clean Air Act to protect health and save lives is a tremendous responsibility and the EPA workload is vast. In 2013, we expect EPA to update health-based air quality standards; implement rules to clean up toxic pollution from major sources such as power plants; clean up toxic pollution from automobile tailpipes; aggressively enforce the law to ensure compliance and protect the public; support state and local air pollution cleanup; continue research on the health impacts of air pollution; improve air pollution monitoring; and ensure that

the Clean Air Act is implemented in a way that protects the most vulnerable. As a nation, we need EPA to be able to do all of these things. Below, we have highlighted key provisions of the President's FY 2013 budget that deserve your attention and/or support.

Improving Air Quality and Addressing Climate Change

We support the President's budget increases to improve air quality and address climate change. Specifically, we support EPA's request for the **Federal Stationary Source Regulation** budget *increase* of \$6.8 million, including an additional \$2.4 million to fund the review of existing Clean Air Act standards for criteria pollutants including ozone and particulate matter to ensure that the air pollution health standards effectively convey to local communities when the air is unhealthy to breathe, as required by law; as well as the requested \$2.0 million for the development of new source performance standards to reduce greenhouse gases. As EPA advances clean air protections, more coordination will be needed and we urge you to provide the resources to do so as requested.

We also support EPA's request for an *additional* \$8.5 million for **Climate Protection Programs**, including \$2.9 million for the **Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program**, and the \$2 million requested by EPA to develop **Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants**. Higher temperatures can enhance the conditions for ozone formation. Even with the steps that are in place to reduce ozone, evidence warns that changes in climate are likely to increase ozone levels in the future in large parts of the United States. It is clear that EPA is taking a careful and common sense approach to addressing climate change, including setting carbon pollution standards for power plants.

The American Lung Association supports the increase requested by EPA to provide **Federal Support for Air Quality Management** of \$11.9 million (including \$531,000 for science and technology needs) to assist states, Tribal and local air pollution agencies in the development and implementation of plans to meet standards established by EPA. People who live near major sources of pollution often face the greatest health risk. Through development of faster, electronic reporting, closing of data gaps, and continuing to develop the science necessary to reduce pollution to healthy levels, EPA supports states, Tribes and local agencies and directly benefits communities.

The **Clean Air Allowance Trading Program** is responsible for development, implementation, and assessment, and provides regulatory and modeling support for efforts to address major regional and national air issues from stationary sources. Clean air allowance trading programs help implement the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and reduce acid deposition, toxics deposition, and regional haze. Pollutants include sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and, as a co-benefit of SO₂ emission reductions, mercury. Please support a funding level of \$792,000 (including \$715,000 to meet science and technology needs) to implement this important program.

Finally, we urge Congress to provide at least the requested \$101.9 million for the EPA **Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs**. It is critically important to increase the budget for EPA's Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs, 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 and compliance for this important program to protect public health.

We strongly support EPA's planned work to update tailpipe standards. **Light duty cars and trucks** remain a significant source of air pollution. This work is vital to correct for any adverse air quality impacts that may result from increased use of renewable fuels.

Indoor Air and Radiation

Indoor air quality is a major concern for the American Lung Association, and we support the \$17.8 million budget request for the **Reducing Risks from Indoor Air Program** to promote comprehensive asthma care that integrates management of environmental asthma triggers and health care services through community based programs, and we appreciate EPA's special attention to communities most at risk including children, low-income and minority populations.

However, we strongly oppose the **\$1.9 million cut to the Indoor Air Radon Program (including 200 thousand for science and technology needs) and the elimination of the \$8 million state radon categorical grants** proposed in the President's Budget. Exposure to radon continues to be a significant risk to human health, and is the largest cause of lung cancer after tobacco.¹ Without the guidance and funding support from EPA, state programs will simply not be able to protect the public from the threat of radon. Please fully restore these programs.

Please restore the *Tools for Schools* which has succeeded in improving environmental conditions and reducing asthma triggers in schools across the country. More schools need this help. Please fund this important program.

Support for State and Local Air Pollution Control

The American Lung Association strongly supports increased funding **for state and local air pollution agencies**, which are on the front lines in the effort to improve air quality across the nation. These agencies will be called on to put in place the revised and new safeguards set under the Clean Air Act and must adopt and enforce a range of new emissions reduction programs – including the recently finalized Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for Power Plants that will save up to 11,000 lives per year when fully implemented. At this critical juncture, state and local air pollution agencies need more resources, not less, to ensure proper implementation of the Clean Air Act and protection of the public so we strongly support the requested *additional* \$65.8 million for State and Local Air Quality Management Grants.

However, we strongly oppose cuts in the President's Budget to the widely supported **Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program** that was reauthorized in late 2010. Twenty million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions and protect public health through the DERA program. Please restore funding to the \$30 million level.

¹ [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA's Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes](#)  (2003).

As mentioned previously, we strongly oppose the elimination of the \$8 million **state radon categorical grants** as proposed in the President's Budget. Without the financial support from EPA, the state programs will be less able to protect the public from the pervasive threat of radon.

Research: Air, Climate and Energy

The American Lung Association strongly supports EPA's **Air, Climate and Energy Research Program**. Research is essential to improve the understanding of the health effects of air pollution and determining what levels of pollution should be set to protect the public with an adequate margin of safety. Specifically, we urge Congress to provide at least the *additional* \$15 million requested in the President's FY 2013 budget for **improved air quality monitoring**. Improving the nation's air pollution monitoring network is absolutely critical in providing better information to enhance federal, state and local knowledge and empower efforts to protect the health of their communities. Continued investment in other areas of research, especially in climate change and biofuels, is also vital to informing future agency action.

Enforcement

The American Lung Association supports EPA's request for enforcement funding to ensure that air pollution standards and requirements are being met to protect public health. In order to effectively protect the public and promote justice for disproportionately impacted populations, EPA must have the ability to enforce penalties for permit violations and respond to civil enforcement actions authorized by the Clean Air Act. We ask Congress to fully fund EPA's enforcement program appropriation request of \$15.8 million, in the interests of the nation's youngest, oldest, and most economically challenged citizens.

Science and Technology

Finally, we urge Congress to provide at least the requested \$101.9 million for the EPA **Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs**. It is critically important to increase the budget for EPA's Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs, 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 and compliance for this important program to protect public health.

Conclusion

For forty years the Clean Air Act has charged EPA to protect the public from air pollution and fulfill the promise of air that is clean and healthy for all to breathe. **We urge the Committee to ensure that EPA is meeting the required deadlines and updating standards to reflect the best science with the maximum health protection, and to pass and FY 2013 bill free of any policy riders.** Thank you for the opportunity to present the recommendations of the American Lung Association. Every day we are fighting for clean, healthy air for all Americans to breathe.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020](#). Washington, D.C., March 2011.

² American Lung Association. [State of the Air 2011](#). Washington, DC. April 2011.

³ American Lung Association. [Clean Air Survey](#). Washington, DC. February 16, 2011