

**American Lung Association - American Thoracic Society - Clean Air Task Force -
Clean Air Watch - Clean Water Action - Environmental Defense Fund -
National Parks Conservation Association- National Wildlife Federation -
Physicians for Social Responsibility**

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Carper-Alexander-Klobuchar-Collins Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010

Dear Chairman Carper:

On behalf of the undersigned clean air, public health, medical professional and environmental organizations, we write in strong support of the Carper-Alexander-Klobuchar- Collins Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010. This legislation will strengthen the Clean Air Act to provide immediate pollution reductions from the electric generating sector and provide critical public health and ecosystem protection.

Specifically, the legislation will:

1. Codify the first phase of the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) until 2012;
2. Extend the Acid Rain program to reduce fossil-fuel power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by 80 percent by 2018;
3. Reduce fossil-fuel power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by more than 50 percent by 2015; and
4. Establish a mercury standard for utility-wide Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) that requires a reduction of fossil-fuel power plant mercury emissions by at least 90 percent and establish a statutory "backstop" if EPA fails to implement the rule by 2012.

This legislation is urgently needed to ensure power sector emission reductions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and mercury. EPA's analysis of the cap levels in the bill demonstrates that these pollution reductions would result in tens of thousands of saved lives per year with hundreds of billions of dollars in annual human health benefits. It would also provide a crucial "backstop" to the EPA MACT process, in case events preclude EPA from finalizing and/or implementing utility MACT rules.

We commend you for your leadership on clean air and support your efforts to hold the line against any attempts to weaken the legislation or otherwise undercut the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Very truly yours,

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO
American Lung Association

Fred Krupp
President
Environmental Defense Fund

Stephen C. Crane, PhD, MPH
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Thomas C. Kiernan
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John DeCock
President
Clean Water Action

cc. The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Judd Gregg
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Ted Kaufman
The Honorable Chuck Schumer
The Honorable Joe Lieberman
The Honorable Olympia Snowe