

H. James Gooden  
Chair

January 20, 2011

Albert A. Rizzo, MD  
Chair-Elect

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Mary H. Partridge  
Past-Chair

Dear Mr. President:

Christine L. Bryant  
Secretary/Treasurer

Earlier this week you highlighted the Clean Air Act as a law that “strengthen[s] our country without unduly interfering with the pursuit of progress and the growth of our economy.” The American Lung Association shares your perspective on these strengths of the Clean Air Act. However, we invite your attention to the remarkable lifesaving benefits and essential protection to public health that this law has provided throughout its 40-year history. *In your upcoming State of the Union address, please send a clear message that protecting the public from air pollution and enforcing the Clean Air Act is a clear and urgent priority for the health of our nation and the health of our economy.*

Ross P. Lanzafame, Esq  
Speaker  
Nationwide Assembly

Gerl Reinardy, MPA  
Speaker-Elect  
Nationwide Assembly

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Charles D. Connor  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

Each year the Clean Air Act prevents tens of thousands or more adverse health effects including asthma attacks and emergency room visits. Most importantly, this year the law will save more than 160,000 lives, according to preliminary estimates by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Millions of children, older adults and people with lung disease, heart disease and diabetes benefit from a strong Clean Air Act. Americans enjoy these protections because Congressional leaders of both parties worked together to create this law to protect the lives and health of their constituents.

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Forty years of evidence shows that these health benefits come without harm to the economy. Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has cut emissions by more than 60 percent, all while the economy has grown by more than 200 percent. The Office of Management and Budget has shown that the benefits of the Clean Air Act far outweigh the compliance costs.

[www.LungUSA.org](http://www.LungUSA.org)

Despite four decades of progress, millions of Americans inhale toxic air pollution every day. Under your leadership, the nation has moved forward on a number of fronts to reduce air pollution, and we have congratulated your Administration on those successes. Still, the Lung Association remains disappointed that lifesaving updates have been delayed, including critical national limits on the most widespread pollutants and long overdue steps to reduce levels of toxic pollution.

In 2011, the American Lung Association and the millions of people with lung disease will be looking for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut air pollution and reduce the related health threats. The public needs to be reminded that the Clean Air Act has prompted technological innovations that have led to much greater pollution reductions at much lower costs than forecasted. America remains the global leader in air pollution technology. American workers help their fellow citizens and millions around the globe breathe easier.

Much work remains to protect public health and the environment. We request that you use all the tools the Clean Air Act provides to move forward with dispatch to update needed standards and move forward with requisite safeguards. Please ensure that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the resources and ability to do its lifesaving work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CD Connor".

Charles D. Connor  
President & CEO