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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

14 Wall St.
Suite 8C
New York, NY 10005-2113
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 608-3219

www.LungUSA.org

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Dear Representative:

As you finalize your appropriations priorities for the fiscal year 2013 (FY13), the American Lung Association asks that your requests include programs that will promote lung health and work to reduce lung disease, the third leading cause of death 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. The Lung Association supports continued investments in public health in order to reduce the burden of lung disease in the U.S.

As the Congress considers the FY13 appropriations bills, the American Lung Association strongly encourages you to oppose all policy riders and support the attached funding recommendations.

The American Lung Association is grateful for your support. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor
President and CEO

American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2013

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

FY13 L-HHS Appropriations Priorities

- **Provide at least \$25.3 million for CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP), and maintain it as a distinct, stand-alone program.**

It is estimated that more than 25 million Americans currently have asthma, of whom 7 million are children. The NACP tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention and builds capacity in state programs. This program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased. Recently, CDC issued data that showed that the prevalence of asthma is increasing in the United States, particularly among minority populations. Maintaining NACP will be critical to educating patients on asthma management and further reducing unnecessary asthma-related deaths as well as healthcare costs.

- **Provide \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Research supported by NIH has been instrumental in the fight to identify the causes of and effective treatments for lung diseases. The American Lung Association supports increased funding for NIH research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for tobacco use and all lung diseases including asthma, COPD, lung cancer and tuberculosis.

- **Provide \$197.117 million for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)**

The American Lung Association supports the President's FY13 budget request of \$197.117, which includes \$89 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The Office of Smoking and Health at CDC is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and costs the U.S. almost \$200 billion in healthcare costs and lost productivity. As such, support for tobacco cessation and prevention activities is among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention.

- **Preserve the Prevention and Public Health Fund as mandated by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act***

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is crucial in financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs. Already the Prevention and Public Health Fund is helping to reduce tobacco use, the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. It is also assisting states in monitoring outbreaks of infectious diseases such as influenza, and is being used to prevent and treat diseases, including COPD, lung cancer and asthma. Eliminating the Fund would put critical public health programs in jeopardy leading to greater health care costs over time. The Lung Association supports fully funding the Prevention and Public Health Fund and strongly opposes any further cuts to the Fund.

American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2013

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

FY13 Interior-Environment Appropriations Priorities

American Lung Association FY13 Int/Env Appropriations Priorities

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

The American Lung Association urges the Committee to help ensure that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the necessary resources to protect the public from the health threats of air pollution, and to defend the Clean Air Act as a key public health safeguard, especially for populations most at risk, including those with asthma and other lung diseases, children, older adults, and people with heart disease and diabetes—from the dangers of airborne pollutants, including the threats from growing carbon dioxide pollution.

At a minimum, the American Lung Association urges the Committee to provide the President's FY13 budget request of \$1,124,581 million for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs to address climate change and improve air quality, and we call your attention to few specific programs below. In addition to these specific requests, we urge Congress to reject any effort to delay or weaken EPA authority to address air pollution.

- **Provide \$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.
- **Restore to \$30 million for the Diesel Emissions Reductions Program**
The American Lung Association opposes cuts in the President's Budget to the widely supported diesel emission reduction (DERA) program. Twenty 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. Please restore funding to a minimum \$30 million level enacted in FY 2012.
- **Restore the EPA Radon Programs and State Indoor Radon Grants**
The President's budget proposes to eliminate all funding (\$8 million in FY 2012) for the State Indoor Radon Grants, the only nationwide program that helps prevent the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States: Radon. States and tribes depend on this program as well as technical assistance through the Radon Programs (which was cut by \$2 million from FY 2012 levels), to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen. EPA warns that it may not meet the 2015 goal of preventing 1,460 premature lung cancer deaths annually due to the budget cuts. We therefore urge the Committee to fully restore the EPA radon programs to FY 2012 levels.