

**American Lung Association • American Public Health Association • Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America • Health Care Without Harm • National Association of County and
City Health Officials • Trust for America's Health •**

Oct. 15, 2013

Dear Senator/Representative:

As you consider legislation to fund the federal government and/or raise the national debt limit, the undersigned public health and medical organizations urge you to reject any legislation that would block, weaken or delay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s efforts to reduce pollution and save lives by fully enforcing the Clean Air Act. Congress should not jeopardize safe, healthy air for all to breathe for any reason, but certainly not in response to extreme demands of polluters and their allies in Congress during a time of fiscal crisis.

The Clean Air Act has a long history of success in protecting public health and reducing health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including cancer, asthma attacks, strokes, heart attacks, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths. A rigorous, peer reviewed analysis, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020*, conducted by EPA, found that the air quality improvements under the Clean Air Act will save \$2 trillion by 2020 and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually.

With benefits like these, it is no surprise that the American public supports Clean Air Act standards to reduce pollution, and believes overwhelmingly that Congress should not interfere with EPA scientists as they work to protect public health.

We look forward to a day when adults and children do not miss a single day of school or work due to unsafe levels of pollution in the air. Please help us realize this vision by rejecting efforts by some in Congress to undermine the Clean Air Act's vital public health protections. Please help us defend a fundamental human right: Healthy air for all to breathe.

Sincerely,

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