

**Statement of Paul G. Billings
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**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FY 2014**

	FY 14 Request (\$millions)
<u>Science and Technology</u>	
Clean Air and Climate: Federal Vehicles and Fuels Standards and Certification	100.4
Indoor Air and Radiation: Indoor Air Radon Program	0.21
Research: Air, Climate and Energy	105.7
<u>Environmental Programs and Management</u>	
Clean Air and Climate: Clean Air Allowance Trading Program	20.5
Clean Air and Climate: Climate Protection Program	106.1
Clean Air and Climate: Federal Stationary Source Regulations	34.1
Clean Air and Climate: Federal Support for Air Quality Management	132.8
Indoor Air and Radiation: Indoor Air Radon Program	3.9
Compliance Monitoring	127.5
Enforcement	267.8
<u>Grants to States</u>	
Diesel Emission Reduction Grant Program	20.0
Radon	8.0
State and Local Air Quality Management	257.2

The American Lung Association is pleased to present our recommendations for Fiscal Year 2014 to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. 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 ensure that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the necessary resources to protect the public health from air pollution, and to adopt an FY 2014 bill free from any policy riders.**

Fulfilling the promise of the Clean Air Act to protect public health and save lives is a tremendous responsibility. Much progress has been made, but the EPA workload continues to be vast. In 2014, EPA must implement the health-based air quality standards for PM and ozone among others; continue implementing rules to clean up toxic pollution from industrial sources including but not limited to power plants; clean up toxic pollution from automobile tailpipes; and reduce carbon pollution from power plants. In addition, EPA must have the resources needed to 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

and best ways to prevent and reduce exposure; 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. Inadequate resources will hurt the health of our communities, families, children and the most vulnerable populations. Below, we have highlighted key provisions of the President's FY 2014 budget that deserve your support.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Clean Air and Climate: Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs

Congress should provide at least the requested \$100.4 million in support for the EPA Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs. EPA has not been able to keep up with increasing demand vehicle certification and compliance testing, or the increasing diversity of technologies. Currently EPA has resources to conduct very limited testing of small imported engines, but a high fraction of these engines fail the tests. Additional resources are needed to improve this important program to protect public health. Additional resources will also expand EPA's ability to address greenhouse gas emissions from locomotives, marine craft and aircraft.

We also strongly support EPA's work to strengthen gasoline and vehicle standards. Cars, light trucks and SUVs are a major source of pollution that contributes to ozone and particle pollution. These pollutants trigger asthma attacks, harm heart and lung health, worsen existing conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and diabetes and can even lead to early death. Cleaner gasoline and vehicle standards will save thousands of lives each year, and prevent tens of thousands of asthma attacks and related hospitalizations.

Indoor Air and Radiation

The American Lung Association strongly opposes the \$210,000 cut to the Indoor Air Radon Program for science and technology support for addressing the threat from radon. 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 science and technology support from EPA, state programs will struggle to protect the public from the threat of radon. Please fully restore this funding.

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. Additionally, 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. **We urge Congress to provide the full \$105.7 million as requested in the President's FY 2014 budget.** Continued investment in other areas of research, especially in climate change and biofuels, is also vital.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

Clean Air and Climate:

Please support the EPA's Clean Air Allowance Trading Program funding request of \$20.5 million, to support development, implementation, and assessment of, 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) to 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. These are common sense investments in public health.

We strongly support the requested funding level of \$106.1 million for the Climate Protection Program. EPA has an obligation to address public health threats associated with climate change. Higher temperatures can enhance the conditions for ozone formation. Even with the steps in place to reduce ozone, evidence warns that changes in climate could increase ozone levels in the future in large parts of the United States. More ozone means more asthma attacks, which increase the burden on already vulnerable populations.

We support the President's budget increases to improve air quality and address climate change. **Specifically, we support the President's budget request of \$34.1 million for Federal Stationary Source Regulation.** EPA must have increased resources to meet increased demands of the Clean Air Act, including the statutory obligation to review dozens of stationary source air toxics standards due for their eight-year review in FY 2014. We urge Congress to provide funding needed to complete the review and revise these standards to protect public health.

The American Lung Association President's FY 2014 budget request of \$132.8 million, for the Federal Support for Air Quality Management. 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.

Indoor Air and Radiation: Indoor Air Radon Program

The American Lung Association strongly supports EPA's work to reduce the risk from radon in federal housing programs, but EPA's radon categorical grants also require staff support and oversight which has been cut from the President's FY 2014 budget. **We urge Congress to provide \$3.9 million for the Indoor Air Radon Program (restoring funding to FY 2012 enacted levels) to ensure EPA can provide needed support and oversight to the states.** EPA must provide basic oversight and guidance to states as they work to reduce threats from radon.

Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement:

EPA must ensure that air pollution standards and requirements are being met to protect public health. The American Lung Association supports EPA's request for compliance monitoring and enforcement funding to identify and reduce non-compliance, and enforce penalties when required to deter future non-compliance. In order to effectively protect the public and promote

justice, EPA must have the ability to enforce penalties for permit violations and respond to civil enforcement actions authorized by the Clean Air Act. **Please fully fund EPA's Compliance Monitoring request for \$127.5 million, and their Enforcement program request of \$267.8 million, in the interests of the nation's youngest, oldest, and most economically challenged citizens.** The American public needs a pollution cop on the beat, and they should be fully prepared and given adequate resources to fulfill their duties.

GRANTS TO STATES

Diesel Emission Reduction Act:

The American Lung Association strongly opposes cuts in the President's Budget to the widely supported Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program that was reauthorized in late 2010. Please restore funding to at least \$20 million. Twenty million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten the public and workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions and protect public health through the DERA program.

Radon:

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 not be able to protect the public from the pervasive threat of radon.

State and Local Air Quality Management:

We strongly support the requested \$257.2 million for State and Local Air Quality Management Grants. 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, since they are on the front lines nationwide in efforts to improve air quality. Yet they are perennially underfunded. In FY 2014, the states and local agencies will develop state-specific strategies to implement air quality standards, including modeling and developing emission inventories; implement and enforce federal mercury and air toxics standards including monitoring, collecting, and analyzing emissions data; operate and maintain air pollution monitoring network; and much more. These activities are crucial to ensuring success of the Clean Air Act.

NOTE: We oppose a provision in the President's FY 2014 budget that would gradually shift PM_{2.5} monitoring funds from Clean Air Act, Sec. 103 (where matching funds are not needed) to Sec. 105, which requires additional matching funds. **Federal funds must be made available for Clean Air Act implementation and enforcement, especially if state or local funds are lacking.**

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to present the recommendations of the American Lung Association. For more than forty years the Clean Air Act has directed 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 2014 bill free of any policy riders.**