

American Academy of Pediatrics • American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association •  
American College of Preventive Medicine • American Lung Association • American Thoracic  
Society • Arthritis Foundation • Association of Public Health Laboratories •  
Breast Cancer Fund • Children's Environmental Health Network •  
Environmental Defense Fund • Environmental Working Group •  
Healthy Schools Network • Learning Disabilities Association of America •  
Lupus Foundation of America • National Center for Environmental Health Strategies •  
National Eczema Association • Society for Women's Health Research •  
Society of Occupational and Environmental Health • Society of Toxicology •  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation • The Endocrine Society

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April 5, 2012

The Hon. Jack Reed  
Chairman, Interior-Env. Subcm.  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Lisa Murkowski  
Rank. Mem, Interior-Env. Subcm.  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As you consider the FY2013 Interior-Environment and Related Agencies appropriation bill, the undersigned members of the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), would like to call your attention to the vital work being done by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) that is supported through the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill.

The NIEHS plays a unique role within the NIH. It is the leading institute conducting research to reduce the burden of human illness and disability by understanding how the environment influences the development and progression of human diseases and illnesses such as cancer, autism, asthma, Parkinsons disease, other autoimmune diseases and chemical sensitivities.

Within the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill, the NIEHS's Superfund Program (SRP) provides scientific research to address the broad public health impacts arising from the release of hazardous substances into the environment. A goal of the SRP is to integrate both biomedical and non-biomedical research components to address the complex nature of hazardous waste management and remediation. The SRP's research portfolio and accomplishments include:

- New NIEHS-SRP findings showing that postnatal exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water is linked to heart problems in young animal models, including hypertension and changes in the size, shape and function of the heart.
- The first scientific study results showing an association between environmental pesticide mixtures and changes in the immune systems of newborn babies, including associations with increased allergic responses and asthma.

- A current NIEHS-SRP study investigating the effects of heavy metals including arsenite in plants. This work may enable scientists to develop technology to avoid arsenic accumulation in rice grains.

We ask for your leadership in ensuring that this agency receives appropriate funding levels so that it can carry out its mission. Representatives from this diverse coalition would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about the very important work being carried out by NIEHS. Please contact Nuala Moore with the American Thoracic Society at 202.296.9770 or Erika Sward with the American Lung Association at 202.785.3355 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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