

 **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®**  
Fighting for Air

August 29, 2011

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

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
The United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

The American Lung Association is writing to state our strong opposition to Section 403, the nonprofit provision, of H.R. 2309, the Postal Reform Act. This provision phases out postage rates for nonprofit organizations that have been authorized and repeatedly reaffirmed by Congress for 50 years.

Last year, the American Lung Association mailed just under 40 million pieces of mail and paid more than \$6.3 million in postage. Our iconic Christmas Seal helps promote the sending of holiday greetings by millions of Americans. Mail provides a cost effective way to communicate life-saving health information to the public and raise resources to fund our fight against lung disease. The virtual elimination of nonprofit postal rates would equate to rate increases by 35 percent, which would consequently increase the American Lung Association's postal costs by 95 percent. Facing such an increase, the Lung Association would have no choice but to significantly cut back on mail volume, further contributing to the downward spiral of the Postal Service.

The increased costs would also have a devastating impact on our ability to deliver our mission programs, including funding research to improve treatments and find cures for the more than 37 million Americans with chronic lung diseases; educating people living with lung disease and their families about how to manage their disease; and fighting for cleaner, healthier air to breathe.

Non-profit postage rates enable the American Lung Association and other nonprofit organizations to provide a critical role in our society and achieve our charitable missions. Phasing out the reduced postage rates hurts nonprofit organizations, the public, and the Postal Service. We respectfully request that this provision in the Postal Reform Act be removed from the bill.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor  
President & CEO

cc. The Hon. Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member  
Members Committee on Oversight and Government Reform