

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

November 18, 2016

Dear President Obama:

As Congress works toward a deal to fund the federal government for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY2017), we ask for your leadership in opposing any appropriations legislation that does not adequately fund the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or that contains harmful policy riders – including riders that would block, weaken, or delay critical clean air and public health protections.

Under your administration, the nation has made significant progress in the fight to ensure healthy air for all Americans. The Clean Power Plan will save lives by reducing dangerous air pollution and will help address climate change, one of the greatest public health challenges of our time. More protective limits on ozone and other pollutants under the Clean Air Act take critical steps toward protecting children and other vulnerable populations. These efforts must not be blocked, weakened, or delayed.

Furthermore, more work remains to be done: more than half the nation still lives where levels of ozone and particle pollution are unhealthy to breathe. Communities across the nation still face the devastating consequences of living downwind from a polluting source. Continued implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act is a critical investment in the health of our nation.

We thank you for your Statement of Administration Policy opposing H.R. 5538, the FY2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives in July. As the statement noted, the bill contained numerous policy riders that would put health and lives at risk from air pollution, and slashed funding for EPA.

Riders in the House-passed bill would block carbon pollution limits on power plants, including the Clean Power Plan; block methane limits on oil and gas facilities; delay the more protective ozone pollution standards; weaken pollution standards for vehicles; circumvent scientific determinations about biomass; and much more.

Several additional egregious riders were added on the House floor, including provisions to prohibit any new major regulatory actions, no matter how great the need or how large the benefit to public health; block EPA's Clean Energy Incentive Program, which helps states encourage investment in clean energy and energy efficiency; and discourage citizen enforcement of environmental protections.

If passed into law, these riders will lead to illnesses and deaths that could have been prevented. The same is true of inadequate funding levels for EPA. Children, the elderly, and people with lung and heart disease are at greater risk.

We thank you for your strong opposition to riders on appropriations bills, including provisions that would endanger public health by weakening the Clean Air Act, and urge you to stand firm and continue to protect Americans' health

Sincerely,



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President & CEO
Allergy & Asthma Network



Gary Cohen
President and Co-Founder
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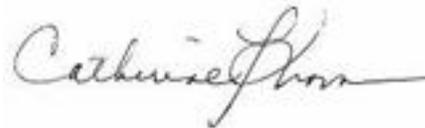
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