

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

Sept. 11, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned public health and medical organizations, we write to state our strong opposition to any effort to hinder the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to protect public health through the Clean Air Act. As you consider S. 1392, *the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013*, we strongly urge you to reject all amendments or policy riders that would prevent EPA from updating standards for life-threatening air pollution.

The Clean Air Act protects public health and reduces 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.

Undermining clean air protections would continue to expose the public to unsafe levels of air pollution that can make people sick or kill them, and will increase the number of missed work and school days due to illness. Therefore, we ask you to support full implementation of the Clean Air Act and resist any efforts to weaken, delay or block progress toward the continued implementation of these vital public health protections. Further, we ask that you speak out publicly in defense of the fundamental human right to breathe healthy air.

Sincerely,

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