



March 15, 2011

Dear Senator:

We the undersigned write to express our strong opposition to the McConnell Amendment, known as the “Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011.” We believe that this legislation would block the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from setting sensible safeguards to protect public health from the effects of air pollution.

Our organizations are keenly aware of the health impacts of air pollution. The Clean Air Act guarantees all Americans, especially the most vulnerable, air that is safe and healthy to breathe. Despite tremendous air pollution reductions, more progress is needed to fulfill this promise.

If passed by Congress, this legislation would interfere with EPA’s ability to implement the Clean Air Act; a law that protects the public health and reduces health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including: cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, emergency department visits, hospitalization 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.

Additionally, the public strongly opposes Congress blocking EPA's efforts to implement the Clean Air Act. A recent bipartisan survey, which was conducted for the American Lung Association by the Republican firm Ayres, McHenry & Associates and the Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research indicates the overwhelming view of voters:

- 69 percent think the EPA should update Clean Air Act standards with stricter limits on air pollution;
- 64 percent feel that Congress should not stop the EPA from updating carbon dioxide emission standards;
- 69 percent believe that EPA scientists, rather than Congress, should set pollution standards.

The McConnell would strip away sensible Clean Air Act protections that safeguard Americans and their families from air pollution. We strongly urge the Senate to support the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,

Charles Connor
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Bill McLin
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