



September 21, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned public health and medical organizations, we write to state our strong opposition to any efforts under consideration by the US House of Representatives that hinder the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ability to protect health through the implementation the Clean Air Act.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor's August 29, 2011 memo to House Republicans specifically called for passage of bills including H.R. 2401, which would indefinitely delay the EPA's proposal to reduce mercury and other toxics from power plants and would block implementation of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, a finalized rule that is expected to prevent the premature deaths of thousands of Americans each year and to make it easier for states downwind of pollution sources to achieve healthful air for their residents. The memo also signals plans with H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2861, which would delay EPA efforts to reduce mercury and other toxics from industrial facilities and cement plants. Further, it signals plans to thwart EPA's ability to propose a health standard for particulate matter, calling for passage of HR 1633, a bill that would block the completion of the review of the health effects associated with deadly soot or particulate matter and prevent EPA from *even* proposing a standard and receiving public comment on that standard.

We urge you to oppose this plan and ask that you, instead, support protecting public health. This Rep. Cantor-led effort would impact EPA's ability to implement the Clean Air Act: a law that protects public health and reduces health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including: cancer, asthma attacks, strokes, 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.

Additionally, the public supports EPA's efforts to implement and update the Clean Air Act. A recent bipartisan survey, which was conducted for the American Lung Association by the Republican firm Moore Information and Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research indicate that those pushing riders or otherwise interfering with EPA are out of touch with voters. The survey shows that over seventy percent of voters do not want Congress to stop the EPA from setting stricter pollution limits and sixty-six percent of voters would prefer that EPA set pollution standards, not Congress.

We believe that in an ironic twist, the Majority Leader's memo lays out an agenda that will expose the public to levels of air pollution that can make them sick or kill them. This agenda will certainly drive up health costs for all as people continued to be exposed to life-threatening air pollution. We ask you to support full implementation of the Clean Air Act and oppose all efforts to weaken, delay or block progress toward the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
American Thoracic Society
Physicians for Social Responsibility

American Public Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America