



September 30, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned public health and medical organizations, we write to thank you for standing up for clean air by voting against the TRAIN Act (H.R.2401) - **the single greatest roll-back of Clean Air Act protections in history to date** – and against damaging amendments offered by Reps. Latta and Whitfield that would further block, delay or dramatically weaken the Clean Air Act.

Unfortunately, many in the House of Representatives sided with big polluters on the TRAIN Act, which is why we express our gratitude for prioritizing public health and defending your constituents' right to breathe healthy air. If adopted into law, the TRAIN Act would indefinitely delay the EPA's proposal to reduce mercury and other air toxics from power plants. It would also 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 by preventing smog and soot pollution from traveling hundreds of miles across state boundaries polluting downwind communities who are otherwise powerless to protect themselves from this dangerous pollution. We assure you that we will work to defeat this measure in the Senate.

As you know, the TRAIN Act was the first in a series of attacks on the Clean Air Act. Next week we expect votes on two additional bills (H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2861) that would delay critical Clean Air Act protections to reduce mercury and other toxic air pollution from industrial facilities and cement plants. Just a few key points on how the Clean Air Act protects public health by cleaning up pollution:

- Cleaning up emissions from industrial boilers and heaters will save 6,500 lives every year. It will also prevent 4,000 heart attacks; over 41,000 asthma attacks; over 4,300 hospital visits; and 310,000 missed work days annually.
- The EPA estimates that reducing toxic pollution from cement kilns can save up to 2,500 lives each year by 2013. Adjusting this pollution standard to better safeguard public health will annually prevent 1,500 heart attacks; 17,000 asthma attacks; over 1,700 hospital and emergency room visits; and 130,000 days of missed work.

We urge you to continue to protect the Clean Air Act by defending against all efforts to weaken, delay or block progress toward the continued implementation of this vital law. Legislation that blocks, delays or weakens the Clean Air Act only tightens the deadly death grip pollution has on our nation's health and will most certainly leave future generations even worse off than we are today. We commend your leadership to stand up against the TRAIN Act and hope that we can continue to count on you to safeguard the Clean Air Act's lifesaving legacy of making our communities healthier.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
American Thoracic Society
Physicians for Social Responsibility

American Public Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Trust for America's Health