

H. James Gooden
Chair

March 2, 2011

Albert A. Rizzo, MD
Chair-Elect

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Mary H. Partridge
Past-Chair

Christine L. Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer

Dear Chairman Boxer:

Ross P. Lanzafame, Esq
Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I write today to support ensuring that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the necessary resources to protect the public health from air pollution. Protecting the public from the health threats of pollution is a core mission of the EPA. Earlier this week, the EPA released a report that documents the tremendous health benefits of the Clean Air Act. According to the report, in 2010 alone the reductions in fine particle and ozone pollution from the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments prevented more than 160,000 premature deaths, 130,000 heart attacks, 13 million lost work days and 1.7 million asthma attacks.¹ Despite this tremendous success much work remains to ensure each American has air that is safe and healthy to breathe. Our annual State of the Air Reports shows that nearly six out of ten Americans live in areas where the air is unhealthy.²

Geri Reinardy, MPA
Speaker-Elect
Nationwide Assembly

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

The public expects EPA to implement the Clean Air Act and strongly opposes Congressional interference in the law's implementation. In February, we released a bipartisan public opinion poll that shows 69 percent of voters support EPA updating Clean Air Act standards on air pollution. The survey shows that 79 percent of voters support stricter limits on mercury, 77 percent support stricter limits on smog, 74 percent support stricter limits on carbon and 74 percent support tougher fuel efficiency standards for heavy duty trucks.³

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Implementing the Clean Air Act to protect health and save lives is a tremendous responsibility and the EPA workload is vast. In 2012, we expect EPA to: update health-based air quality standards; implement rules to clean up toxic pollution from major sources like power plants; clean up toxic pollution from automobile tailpipes; aggressively enforce the law to ensure compliance and protect the public; support state and local air pollution cleanup; continue research on the health impacts of air pollution; improve air pollution monitoring; and ensure that the Clean Air Act is implemented in a way that protects the most vulnerable.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020](#). Washington, D.C., March 2011.

² American Lung Association. [State of the Air 2010](#). Washington, DC. April 2010.

³ American Lung Association. [Clean Air Survey](#). Washington, DC. February 16, 2011.

The American Lung Association would like to highlight for you some key provisions of the President's FY 2012 budget that provide additional focus on protecting vulnerable populations. The budget includes a \$2 million increase in funding for Civil Enforcement to reduce toxic air pollution around schools and within at-risk communities. Since children are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of toxic pollution, we are heartened to see this budget increase.

We are pleased to see the President's budget increase support in the Air Quality Management Program to improve pollution monitoring and analysis at polluting facilities' fence lines. People who live adjacent to and near major facilities are often at the greatest health risk. Increases of more than \$3 million as part of the Air Toxics Initiative and almost \$3 million as part of the Healthy Communities Initiative will help improve the understanding of community-wide impacts of toxic air pollution and ultimately lead to better protection.

We support the President's budget increase of nearly \$7 million to fund Federal Stationary Source Regulations. These funds will support the updating of air pollution health standards, known as National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as well as funding the setting of air toxics standards known as Maximum Achievable Control Technology. It is vital that EPA complete these rules on time and begin their implementation.

We strongly support increased funding for state and local air pollution agencies. State and local air pollution control agencies are on the front lines in the effort to improve air quality across the nation. These agencies will be called on to adopt and enforce a range of new emissions reduction programs designed to meet the needs of each area that violates the standards. State and local air pollution agencies need additional resources to meet the obligation to implement the Clean Air Act.

Light duty cars and trucks remain a significant source of air pollution. We strongly support EPA's planned work to update tailpipe standards. This work is vital to correct for any adverse air quality impacts that may result from increased use of renewable fuels.

We also support EPA's continued work under the Clean Air Act to control greenhouse gases. It is clear that EPA is taking a careful and common sense approach to addressing this global threat.

The American Lung Association opposes cuts in the President's Budget to the widely supported diesel emission reduction program that was reauthorized in late 2010 thanks to the bipartisan leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee. We also strongly oppose cuts to the successful indoor air program that works to reduce asthma attacks and lung cancer. The low cost, voluntary Indoor Air Quality Tools For Schools Program, which has been highly successful in improving environmental conditions and reducing asthma triggers in schools must not be eliminated.

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For forty years the Clean Air Act has charged EPA to protect the public from air pollution and fulfill the promise of air that is clean and healthy for all to breathe. We urge the Environment and Public Works Committee to continue to exercise its oversight authority to ensure that EPA is meeting the required deadlines and updating standards to reflect the best science with the maximum health protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "CD Connor".

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO