



November 16, 2015

Dear Senator:

The undersigned public health and medical organizations strongly urge you to oppose Congressional Review Act resolutions S.J. Res. 23 and 24. The measures are excessive attacks on public health protections from carbon pollution from power plants.

The Congressional Review Act resolutions are an extreme tool that would permanently block the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s actions to reduce dangerous carbon pollution from power plants. These resolutions would prevent EPA from moving forward with any substantially similar action in the future. Carbon pollution from power plants greatly contributes to climate change, which is widely recognized as one of the greatest threats to public health. To protect public health, it is vital that our nation make progress in the fight against climate change.

As U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, said during 2015 National Public Health Week, "We know that climate change means higher temperatures overall, and it also means longer and hotter heat waves... higher temperatures can mean worse air in cities, and more smog and more ozone. We know that more intense wildfires will mean increased smoke in the air. And we know that earlier springs and longer summers mean longer allergy seasons."

The science is clear: communities across the nation are experiencing the health effects of climate change now. Climate change is impacting air pollution, which can cause asthma attacks, cardiovascular disease and premature death, and fostering extreme weather patterns, such as heat and severe storms, droughts, wildfires and flooding, that can harm low-income communities disproportionately. Bold action is needed to protect public health, which is why our organizations support the Clean Power Plan.

EPA's action to reduce carbon pollution from power plants will help the nation take important steps toward protecting Americans' health from these threats. Not only does the Clean Power Plan give states flexible tools to reduce the carbon pollution that causes climate change, these crucial tools will also have the co-benefit of reducing other deadly pollutants at the same time, preventing up to 3,600 premature deaths and 90,000 asthma attacks every year by 2030.

Please make your priority the health of your constituents and vote NO on these Congressional Review Act resolutions, S.J. Res. 23 and 24.

Sincerely,

Allergy and Asthma Network
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Health Care Without Harm
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
Trust for America's Health