

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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January 27, 2009

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The American Lung Association strongly supports HR 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This legislation contains a number of important health and environmental components which the American Lung Association believe will improve public health, reduce air pollution and create thousands of jobs.

The American Lung Association strongly supports the following provisions:

- Funding for tobacco cessation and smoking prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A \$500 million investment into evidence-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies is long overdue. Funds to address the terrible burden caused by tobacco use are particularly important. As a nation we must reduce the number of children who begin to smoke and the number of people who die from tobacco-related diseases. Funding for tobacco cessation and prevention will also serve to lessen tobacco's financial burden on the U.S., which totals more than \$192 billion annually in healthcare costs and economic productivity losses.
- Funding for diesel emissions reductions to clean up particle pollution from diesel trucks, buses and heavy equipment. Diesel exhaust has been linked in numerous scientific studies to cancer, the exacerbation of asthma and other respiratory diseases. An independent economic analysis shows that \$1.5 billion in diesel emission reduction funding could save 39,000 to 50,000 jobs and generate \$6.8 billion to \$8.7 billion in additional economic output.
- Funding for increased biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health. \$3.0 billion is a much needed contribution to reinvigorate our nation's research program. After several years of flat funding, a substantial investment into our nation's biomedical research is desperately needed. The American Lung Association strongly supports additional funding for NIH and for research into lung diseases, including asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and lung cancer.

This substantial investment through the in public health and in air quality will create jobs and save lives. The American Lung Association is proud to support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Paul G. Billings
Vice President, National Policy & Advocacy