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September 1, 2011

The Honorable William Daley
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Daley:

Two years ago, the Obama Administration announced a decision to reconsider the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. Since that time, the final decision has been delayed four times. We write today to respectfully request an official estimate of the date for release of the Obama Administration's decision on the reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone. Since the current standard has been in place since 1997 and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee has advised the President that it does not adequately protect public health, the American Lung Association urges the Administration to make an immediate, life-saving decision on this long overdue measure.

Thank you again for inviting us to provide you and your staff the compelling reasons for a much more protective standard for ozone than the standards adopted by the Bush Administration in 2008. As we shared with you, millions of infants, children, older adults, and people with chronic diseases can't avoid breathing smog. They depend upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to follow the Clean Air Act and protect their health. EPA estimated that measures to reduce ozone pollution will save as many as 12,000 lives each year. With each month of delay, another thousand lives are threatened. Millions more risk asthma attacks, trips to the emergency room or days away from their jobs or school.

Ozone is the nation's most pervasive air pollutant, threatening the health of millions of people each year. The American Lung Association joined with many leading health and medical organizations to applaud the administration's decision to reconsider the 2008 standards for one overriding reason: a more protective ozone standard will save lives. The initial deadline for action was more than one year ago but the nation is still holding its breath and being kept waiting for a new standard that follows the science and the law - and protects health.

It is long past time to complete this work. The reconsideration process provided ample time for public comments and participation in public hearings. Interested stakeholders have had the opportunity to meet with you and with others in the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. We deeply appreciate your taking the time to meet with the American Lung Association as well as leading public health and medical organizations and environmental groups to hear our views.

We ask today that the President direct OMB to complete its review to allow Administrator Jackson to set a health-based ozone standard based on the science now so the pollution reductions may begin. We urge you to act today in the public interest and set a new ozone standard to protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CD Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO