



March 15, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

The American Lung Association strongly supports the Clean Air Act and requests that you halt your efforts to undermine and weaken the act. The Clean Air Act is a landmark public health statute responsible for dramatic reductions of air pollution resulting in tremendous health benefits. A recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020* found that cutting pollution through the Clean Air Act prevented 160,000 premature deaths in 2010. In addition the report found that the law prevented more than 1.7 million asthma attacks last year.

Specifically we oppose your legislation, H.R. 910 the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011, which will rollback Clean Air Act protections that are in place to address the health impacts of carbon dioxide pollution and other greenhouse gas pollution, including protections upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. The bill blocks EPA, California, and other states from setting automobile greenhouse gas pollution standards. The bill would repeal at least eleven final actions taken to protect health and the environment under the Clean Air Act.

We are also deeply disappointed by your votes for amendments to H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 that would block implementation of the Clean Air Act and its lifesaving protections. These amendments would prevent EPA from updating and enforcing standards for the cleanup of toxic mercury, soot, carbon dioxide and other air pollutants. These provisions, if enacted into law, would result in millions of Americans—including children, seniors, and people with chronic disease such as asthma—being forced to breathe air that is unhealthy. Breathing air pollution can cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, cancer and shorten lives.

Mr. Chairman, moving forward in the 112th Congress, we urge you to reconsider your efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act and to use your leadership of the Energy and Commerce Committee to support and strengthen the nation's air pollution protections provided by the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Connor".

Charles D. Connor
President and CEO
American Lung Association
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Gottschalk".

Barry Gottschalk
President and CEO
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