

Congress Must Oppose Clean Air Act Tradeoffs in Climate Legislation

Bills must not block or delay EPA's authority to address climate change under the Clean Air Act.



Climate Change Threatens Public Health Today.

- Climate change already endangers Americans' health due to greater risks from wildfires, increased risk of high ozone and particle pollution, more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and more. As recent reports make clear, we need every tool in the toolbox to avoid the worst impacts.
- [National health and medical organizations](#) urge Congress to take decisive action to mitigate climate change and protect public health. Congress must not weaken the Clean Air Act.

The Clean Air Act Gives EPA the Authority and Responsibility to Reduce Climate Pollution.

- The Clean Air Act provides the key national, enforceable requirement for reducing emissions that cause climate change.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that the Clean Air Act requires EPA to limit pollution that causes climate change because of EPA's duty to reduce emissions that harm human health.
- EPA's authority to limit carbon pollution, methane and other greenhouse gases allows EPA to provide states with significant flexibility to clean up emissions that cause climate change.
 - EPA's 2015 Clean Power Plan allowed states to reduce carbon pollution from power plants through investing in energy efficiency or switching to cleaner fuels, with immediate health benefits from reducing other dangerous pollutants that harm public health.
- The Lung Association urges Congress to protect EPA's authority to set limits on these pollutants and provide a wide range of tools to reduce emissions.
- The Lung Association also supports emissions limits that will drive cleanup at every source to protect the surrounding communities from air pollution as well as mitigate climate change.

Congressional action is essential to address climate change. As a critical and enforceable backstop, EPA must continue to have the authority to take action under the Clean Air Act to protect public health.

- EPA must maintain authority as a backstop to ensure that the U.S. can still immediately reduce emissions even if climate legislation is weakened or overturned, or fails to meet its targets.
- As long as climate legislation is working effectively, EPA will not need to advance duplicative limits.

The American Lung Association opposes legislation that blocks, delays, removes or weakens EPA authority to limit carbon, methane and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

For more information

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