

**Center for Biological Diversity * Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
Clean Water Action * CLF Maine * Conservation Law Foundation
Earthjustice * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund
Friends Committee on National Legislation * Greenpeace
League of Conservation Voters * League of Women Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council * Physicians for Social Responsibility
Sierra Club * The Center for the Celebration of Creation**

September 21, 2011

Dear Member:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters **we urge you to oppose H.R. 2250**, introduced by Congressmen Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), which would place thousands of lives at risk each year and endanger the health of many more by permanently gutting the Clean Air Act's ability to protect our children, families, and communities from life-threatening toxic air pollution.

The bill ignores the dangers posed by waste burning and arbitrarily exempts facilities from controlling toxic air pollution without any scientific justification. Specifically, H.R. 2250 would permanently weaken the Clean Air Act by allowing industrial facilities in communities across the nation to burn tires, plastics, coal waste, used chemicals, and other waste for energy without controlling or reporting their toxic air pollution, so long as they recovered some amount of energy from the process. H.R. 2250 would allow the secret and uncontrolled burning of industrial wastes to take place at facilities that operate across the street or across a fence from homes, schools, and day care centers. Communities across the country are already suffering serious health consequences from exposure to industrial pollution, and, H.R. 2250 would make this situation much worse.

H.R. 2250 will also indefinitely delay already-overdue pollution control standards for industrial boilers. This delay is both unwarranted and dangerous. EPA is currently reconsidering parts of the industrial boiler standards in response to data from industry. The Agency has said that it will finalize standards for boilers and incinerators by April 2012, providing ample time for stakeholder input. H.R. 2250 prevents EPA from going forward with its plan. The bill scraps work EPA has already completed, and on top of this, rewrites the Clean Air Act to give no specific timeline to start cleaning up toxic pollution. Further, Congress directed EPA to set these health protections more than a decade ago. Industry has had a decade of notice, and EPA has repeatedly said that it does not need or want more time from Congress.

The excessive legislative delays proposed in H.R. 2250 will only hurt Americans' health and lead to more lives lost. To make matters worse, the bill eliminates any deadline at all to issue these standards. Every year, these standards will reduce emissions of mercury, arsenic, cancer-causing dioxins and particulate matter by tens of thousands of tons. The

reductions in fine particulate matter alone will prevent up to 6,500 premature deaths, 41,000 asthma attacks and 4,000 heart attacks every year. Blocking standards for even three years will result in up to 19,500 lives lost. These numbers could continue to grow for every additional year the standards are delayed.

Once again we urge you to strongly oppose H.R. 2250. This proposal denies Americans the right to know whether their air is safe to breathe, rejects basic science, and puts people's lives at risk. The asthma attacks and deaths it would cause are entirely avoidable and its proposals are both unnecessary and arbitrary. Congress should be celebrating the Clean Air Act's 40-year success at protecting our families and our children, not attempting to tear it down.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
Clean Water Action
CLF Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Earthjustice
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Greenpeace
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Sierra Club
The Center for the Celebration of Creation