American College of Preventive Medicine American Lung Association

American Public Health Association American Thoracic Society Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America National Association of County and City Health Officials Physicians for Social Responsibility Trust for America's Health

July 12, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

On behalf of the undersigned public health and medical organizations, we write to state our strong opposition to any efforts that hinder the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ability to implement the Clean Air Act.

As you move forward with the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations process, we urge you to protect public health and not include devices such as amendments, policy riders and/or funding restrictions that prevent EPA from updating emission standards for life-threatening pollution.

Budget cuts and/or policy riders would impact EPA's ability to implement the Clean Air Act: a law that protects public health and reduces health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including: cancer, asthma attacks, strokes, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths. A rigorous, peer reviewed analysis, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from1990 to 2020*, conducted by EPA, found that the air quality improvements under the Clean Air Act will save $2 trillion by 2020 and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually.

Additionally, the public supports EPA's efforts to implement and update the Clean Air Act. A recent bipartisan survey, which was conducted for the American Lung Association by the Republican firm Moore Information and Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research indicate that those pushing riders or otherwise interfering with EPA are out of touch with voters. The survey shows that over seventy percent of voters do not want Congress to stop the EPA from setting stricter pollution limits and sixty-six percent of voters would prefer that EPA set pollution standards, not Congress.

As you proceed with the appropriations process, we ask you to support full implementation of the Clean Air Act and resist any efforts to weaken, delay or block progress toward the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,

Michael Barry, CAE,

Executive Director,

American College of Preventive Medicine

Charles D. Connor

President and CEO,

American Lung Association

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)

Executive Director,

American Public Health Association

Nicolas S. Hill, MD

President,

American Thoracic Society

Bill McLin

President and CEO,

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Robert M. Pestronk

Executive Director,

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Peter Wilk MD,

Executive Director,

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Jeffrey Levi, PhD,

Executive Director,

Trust for America's Health

cc. Members, Committee on Appropriations

Paul G. Billings

Vice President National Policy & Advocacy

American Lung Association

1301 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 800

Washington, DC 20004-1725

Phone: 202-785-3355 x 3988

Fax: 202 -452-1805

pbillings@lungusa.org