

**ALMA-Arizona Latino Medical Association • Common Ground for Conservation-America Verde • Center for American Progress Action Fund • Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica (COFEM) • Democracia Ahora • Enlace Chicago • Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) • Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) • Hispanic Federation • La Onda Verde de NRDC • Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) • Latino Coalition for a Healthy California • League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) • MANA- A National Latina Organization • Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) • Mujeres Latinas en Acción • National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc. (NACOPRW) • National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) • National Latino Coalition on Climate Change • National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC) • Project Economic Refugee • William C. Velazquez Institute • United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) • Voces Verdes**

March 29, 2011

Dear Senate Majority Leader Reid and Members of the U.S. Senate, and Members of the House of Representatives,

For forty years, the Clean Air Act has protected the health of millions in the United States from dangerous pollutants. For Latinos who often bear the brunt of pollution impacts, these protections mean the difference between costly, debilitating illnesses and a healthy, financially stable life.

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to recognize these impacts and oppose any efforts to block, delay or prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from doing its job to protect us from dangerous pollution. We ask you to stand up for clean air and the health of families rather than support the agendas of polluters who want to prevent EPA from reducing life-threatening pollution.

In the U.S. today, 1 out of every 10 children are affected by asthma. Latino children fare worse being 60% more likely to develop asthma than non-Hispanic white children since they often live in geographic areas with the highest concentrations of air pollution.

Our health professionals experience firsthand the suffering caused by disease impacts, in doctor's offices, emergency rooms and hospitals. Air pollution takes a toll on families that can be measured in lives lost, jobs lost, missed school days and severe financial hardship. Because so many Hispanics are under-insured or lack insurance altogether, these preventable illnesses can be devastating.

The Clean Air Act was passed to protect the most vulnerable among us—those with asthma and other respiratory illnesses, children, older adults, and people with heart disease and diabetes—from the dangers of air pollutants, including threats posed by carbon dioxide pollution. Every year this important law prevents hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, heart attacks and other serious health problems.

We urge you to oppose the bills Representative Upton and Senator Inhofe have proposed, senate bills like Senator Rockefeller's (S. 231) to block limits on pollution, and other attempts to block or repeal Clean Air Act health protections. All of these are designed to allow corporate polluters to dump unlimited amounts of dangerous pollution into our air putting our health at risk from asthma and other respiratory diseases, cancer, cardiovascular disease, allergies and stroke, among others.

We hope you will choose to protect our communities by ensuring EPA is allowed to do its job to safeguard our air and our health rather than protecting polluters.

Sincerely,

**ALMA-Arizona Latino Medical Association**  
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**Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica (COFEM)**  
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