



September 22, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Protect Public and Environmental Health – Vote NO on H.R. 2401, the TRAIN Act

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our 1.4 million members and supporters, I write today to strongly urge that you oppose H.R. 2401, the so-called TRAIN Act. As the first item on Majority Leader Cantor's legislative agenda for this fall, this bill has become nothing less than a radical and dangerous assault on the bedrock principles of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Despite repeated and scientifically refuted claims to the contrary, this bill will do nothing to create jobs or spur economic growth. What it will do, however, is dramatically inflate the number of pollution-related premature deaths, stunt the mental and developmental growth of countless children for years to come, and send the message that the House of Representatives stands with polluters, not people.

Proponents of this legislation assert that it is a "study bill," aimed only at analyzing economic impacts of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safeguards. If that were only what the bill accomplished it would still constitute an exercise in bureaucratic redundancy as both the EPA and the Office of Management and Budget already perform this function. The irony of a Congress that has called for smaller government and less regulation hiding an assault on public health under a banner of government red tape is not lost on those that care about good government and transparency.

To be clear, H.R. 2401 would directly block two long delayed, critical public health safeguards – The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard for Power Plants and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule. These rules have languished in legal and bureaucratic limbo for decades and are desperately needed to reduce soot, smog and toxic air pollution being spewed into our communities. Specifically, blocking these bills would cost a minimum of 34,000 lives, with indefinite delay resulting in 25,000 additional deaths every year.

Additionally, recently proposed amendments will be voted on this week that would make TRAIN even more dangerous to public health. Representative Latta's amendment negates a unanimous 2001 Supreme Court decision which held that science and public health must be the only factors considered when the EPA is establishing public health standards. Imagine your doctor telling you that she cannot diagnose your cancer because the treatment might be too expensive. Representative Whitfield's amendment calls for more mandatory delays in establishing lifesaving rules and flips science on its head by requiring that future standards be based on the performance of the oldest and dirtiest facilities.

We strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 2401 and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Brune".

Michael Brune
Executive Director