

December 16, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

After 21 years since it was originally required by Congress, today is the day that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will finalize standards to reduce life-threatening pollution from power plant emissions. The pollutants to be reduced include toxics such as mercury, lead, arsenic, and host of other chemicals and acid gases.

Breathing these toxics is hazardous to our health. Some of these pollutants cause cancer; some cause birth defects and harm children's brain development; some cause asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes. Some of these toxic substances kill people.

When the pollution controls are in place, the EPA estimates that the updated standards will save approximately 17,000 lives, will prevent 120,000 asthma attacks, 11,000 heart attacks, and 12,000 hospital visits each year. From coast-to-coast people will be able to breathe a little easier.

We are grateful that your administration has worked so hard to finalize this rule. We can't wait to hear that the Administrator has signed the final rule and the nation's children can't wait to breathe air that is far less toxic.

Sincerely,
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Health Care Without Harm
National Association of City and County Health Officials
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Illinois

American Lung Association in Illinois
Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health, University of Illinois at Chicago
School of Public Health
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition

Maine

American Lung Association in Maine

Maine Labor Group on Health
Maine Public Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter

Massachusetts

American Lung Association in Massachusetts
Asthma and Allergy Foundation, New England Chapter
Boston Public Health Commission
Breath of Life Dorchester, BOLD Teens
Cambridge Public Health Department
Codman Square Neighborhood Council
Health Resources in Action
Massachusetts Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
Massachusetts Occupational Health Nurses
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association
Massachusetts Thoracic Section of American Lung Association of New England's Medical & Scientific Branch
Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition

Michigan

American Lung Association in Michigan
Asthma Coalition of Northwest Michigan

Montana

American Lung Association in Montana
Montana Environmental Health Association
Montana Public Health Association
Montana Society of Respiratory Care
RiverStone Health

Ohio

American Lung Association in Ohio
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Environmental Health Watch
Ohio Nurses Association
Ohio Public Health Association

Pennsylvania

American Lung Association in Pennsylvania
Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania
Jefferson Medical College Chapter of the American Medical Students Association
Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Chapter, Health Care Without Harm
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care
Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility
Women for a Healthy Environment