



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

May 11, 2017

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Comments on Executive Order 13777, issued 2/24/17, directs agencies to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force to oversee the evaluation of existing regulations to make recommendations about potential repeal, replacement, or modification. Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190

Submitted via regulations.gov <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190-0042>

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) urges you to preserve existing regulations that protect the nation's air and water, and oppose legislation or amendments that would block, weaken or otherwise hinder the work of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update and enforce strong limits on dangerous air pollution.

NACCHO is the voice of the 2,800 local health departments across the country that work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. With the passage of the Clean Air Act more than 40 years ago, policymakers made a commitment that the air in the United States would be safe for all to breathe, based on the best evidence from the health and medical science. This set our nation on a path toward safe, healthy air for all – including children, the elderly, and those with lung or heart disease. Thanks to that commitment, we have made tremendous progress to reduce pollution.

Local health departments are concerned that climate change can harm the health of the public through degraded air quality, wildfires, drought, heat waves and more. Implementing and enforcing the Clean Air Act is a strong investment in the health of our nation. Reducing air pollution saves lives and reduces health care costs by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including cancer cases, asthma attacks, strokes, heart attacks, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations. A rigorous, peer reviewed analysis, [*The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 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.

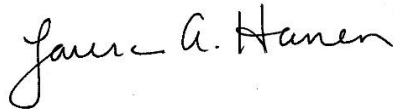
With benefits like these, it is no surprise that the American public supports EPA efforts to reduce pollution, and believes overwhelmingly that Congress should not interfere with EPA scientists as they work to protect public health.

Despite the success of the Clean Air Act and the strong public support for continued protection, some in Congress have proposed legislation that would dismantle or delay Clean Air Act safeguards. Doing so would undermine the health of our nation, and could expose millions of

Americans to unsafe levels of air pollution, increasing the number of missed work and school days due to illness, hospitalizations for respiratory and cardiovascular distress, and premature deaths due to air pollution.

Therefore, NACCHO 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 these vital public health protections. Further, we ask that you speak out publicly in defense of the fundamental human right to breathe healthy air.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura A. Hanen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Laura A. Hanen, MPP

Interim Executive Director/Chief of Government Affairs