



December 5, 2016

Dear California U.S. Congressman,

As you work toward a deal to fund the federal government for Fiscal Year 2017, the undersigned California public health and medical organizations urge you to oppose all policy riders, including those to block, weaken, or delay Clean Air Act protections, and fully fund the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's work to protect public health from air pollution.

Our organizations work to improve and protect the health of Californians. Clean air is essential for public health. Air pollution contributes to asthma attacks, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, low birthweight, and premature deaths. California has made tremendous progress in reducing dangerous air pollution, but remains home to the most polluted air in the country, with eight out of 10 Californians living in counties that have unhealthy levels of either ozone or particle pollution, according to the American Lung Association's 2016 *State of the Air* report. Continued implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act is crucial to ensure that Californians have healthy air to breathe.

Our organizations are concerned about the inclusion of policy riders in funding legislation that would weaken the Clean Air Act, and about inadequate investment in public health protections from harmful air pollution. H.R. 5538, the FY2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives in July, slashed funding for EPA and contained numerous policy riders that would put health and lives at risk from air pollution.

Among the harmful riders in the House-passed bill are provisions to block carbon pollution limits on power plants; block methane limits on oil and gas facilities; delay more protective ozone pollution standards; circumvent scientific determinations about biomass; block EPA's Clean Energy Incentive

Program, which helps states encourage investment in clean energy and energy efficiency; and even prohibit any new major regulatory actions, no matter how great the need or how large the benefit to public health.

These riders would block or delay efforts to clean up harmful air pollution, leading to asthma attacks and deaths that could have been prevented. Children, the elderly, and people with lung and heart disease are at greater risk, including California's 700,000 children and 2.5 million adults with asthma.

The undersigned organizations urge you to protect the health of your constituents by investing in implementation and enforcement of lifesaving clean air protections, and by opposing all riders in funding bills, including any provisions that would endanger public health by weakening the Clean Air Act or hindering the EPA's work to clean up harmful air pollution. Californians are counting on you.

Sincerely,

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