March 21, 2017

Dear Senator/Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members, the undersigned 121 organizations urge you to oppose the "Ozone Standards Implementation Act" (H.R. 806, S.263). The innocuous-sounding name is misleading: this legislation would actually systematically weaken the Clean Air Act without a single improvement, undermine Americans' 46-year right to healthy air based on medical science, and delay life-saving health standards already years overdue.

This bill's vision of "Ozone Standards Implementation" eliminates health benefits and the right to truly safe air that Americans enjoy under today's law. First, the legislation would delay for ten years the right to safer air quality, and even the simple right to know if the air is safe to breathe. Corporations applying for air pollution permits would be free to ignore new ground-level ozone (aka smog) health standards during these additional ten years. For the first time the largest sources of air pollution would be allowed to exceed health standards. The bill would also outright excuse the parts of the country suffering the worst smog pollution from having backup plans if they do not reduce pollution. The most polluted parts of the country should not stop doing everything they can to protect their citizens' health and environment by cleaning up smog pollution.

This bill is not content to merely weaken and delay reductions in smog pollution. It also strikes at our core right to clean air based on health and medical science. The medically-based health standards that the law has been founded on for 46 years instead could become a political football weakened by polluter compliance costs. This could well result in communities being exposed to unhealthy levels of smog and soot and sulfur dioxide and even toxic lead pollution. The bill would also double the law's five-year review periods for recognizing the latest science and updating health standards, which are already frequently years late; this means in practice that unhealthy air would persist for longer than ten years.

The legislation also weakens implementation of current clean air health standards. The bill expands exemptions for "exceptional events" that are not counted towards compliance with health standards for air quality, even when air pollution levels are unsafe. This will mean more unsafe air more often, with no responsibility to clean it up. Requirements meant to ensure progress toward reducing smog and soot pollution would shift from focusing on public health and achievability to economic costs. Despite the bland name "Ozone Standards Implementation Act," this bill represents an extreme attack on the most fundamental safeguards and rights in the Clean Air Act.

Since 1970, the Federal Clean Air Act has been organized around one governing principle—that the EPA must set health standards based on medical science for dangerous air pollution, including smog, soot and lead, that protect all Americans, with "an adequate margin of safety" for vulnerable populations like children, the elderly and asthmatics. This legislation eviscerates that principle and protection. We urge you to oppose H.R. 806 and S.263, to protect our families and Americans' rights to clean air.

Sincerely,

350KC 350 Loudoun Alaska Community Action on Toxics Alton Area Cluster UCM (United Congregations of Metro-East)
Brentwood House

California Latino Business Institute Center for Biological Diversity

Central Valley Air Quality (CVAQ) Coalition Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility

Citizens for Clean Air Clean Air Watch Clean Water Action

Cleveland Environmental Action Network Climate Action Alliance of the Valley

**Connecticut League of Conservation Voters** 

Conservation Voters for Idaho

Conservation Voters of South Carolina

Dakota Resource Council Earth Day Network

Earthjustice Earthworks

Environment Iowa
Environment America
Environment Arizona
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Connecticut
Environment Florida
Environment Georgia
Environment Illinois
Environment Maine
Environment Maryland
Environment Massachusetts
Environment Michigan
Environment Minnesota

Environment New Hampshire Environment New Jersey Environment New Mexico Environment North Carolina

**Environment Missouri** 

**Environment Montana** 

**Environment Nevada** 

Environment Ohio Environment Oregon Environment Rhode Island

Environment Texas Environment Virginia Environment Washington

Environmental Defense Action Fund Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) Environmental Law & Policy Center

Ethical Society of St. Louis

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Florida Conservation Voters Fort Collins Sustainability Group

Gasp

GreenLatinos

Health Care Without Harm lowa Interfaith Power & Light

Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society

**KyotoUSA** 

Labadie Environmental Organization (LEO)

Latino Donor Collaborative League of Conservation Voters League of Women Voters Maine Conservation Voters

Maryland League of Conservation Voters Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Moms Clean Air Force

Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund Montana Environmental Information Center National Parks Conservation Association Natural Resources Defense Council NC League of Conservation Voters Nevada Conservation League

New Mexico Environmental Law Center New York League of Conservation Voters

Northern Plains Resource Council

**OEC Action Fund** 

Ohio Organizing Collaborative, Communities

United for Responsible Energy

Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Partnership for Policy Integrity

PennEnvironment

People Demanding Action, Tucson Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine

Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles

Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona

Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility, SF Bay Area

Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Tennessee

Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Wisconsin

Chapter

Powder River Basin Resource Council

Public Citizen

Public Citizen's Texas Office

**RVA Interfaith Climate Justice Team** 

Safe Climate Campaign

San Juan Citizens Alliance

Sierra Club

Southern Environmental Law Center

Texas Campaign for the Environment

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services

**Texas League of Conservation Voters** 

The Environmental Justice Center at Chestnut

Hills United Church

Trust for America's Health

**Union of Concerned Scientists** 

Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

Valley Watch

Virginia Organizing

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light

**Voces Verdes** 

**Voices for Progress** 

**Washington Conservation Voters** 

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

**Western Colorado Congress** 

Western Organization of Resource Councils

Wisconsin Environmental Health Network

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

Wisconsin Environment

**Wyoming Outdoor Council**