



February 28, 2023

The Honorable Bill Johnson, Chairman
The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Minerals
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Tonko:

The American Lung Association strongly supports the Clean Air Act and the success the landmark law has achieved over its fifty plus years. The air our communities, including our elders, children and loved ones living with health conditions, is much cleaner today than it was before Congress came together to pass this bipartisan law.

Attempts to weaken the Clean Air Act or create loopholes within it are not new. We urge your Committee to reject any attempts to make it easier for polluters to continue worsening local air quality and exacerbating health harms.

Several of the bills under consideration today's hearing have the potential to lead to increases in harmful air pollutants or prevent progress in cleaning them up. In particular, the Lung Association urges opposition to H.R. 1023, H.R. 1131, H.R. 1140 and H.R. 1141, all of which would weaken the Clean Air Act and its ability to protect health from air pollution.

Air pollution poses risks to respiratory, cardiovascular, developmental and reproductive health. Long-term exposure is associated with the development of and worsening of Type 2 diabetes. Everyone's health can be impacted by both short-term and prolonged exposure, but some populations face worse chances for negative health outcomes. Individuals and families living near polluting facilities have higher exposures to dangerous pollutants. Often these communities are people of color and/or low-wealth communities, and the exposure to air pollution therefore exacerbates existing health inequities. Children are more susceptible to harm from breathing in pollution because their lungs and organs are still developing. Even before they are born, pollution harms babies and is associated with low birth weight, often a precursor for future health challenges. The elderly population and people who work or spend extended time outdoors are also at a higher risk of health harm.

The Clean Air Act works because its guiding principle is protecting health from air pollution. Protecting the health and safety of Americans is a core responsibility of Congress and we urge the Committee to reject any attempts to weaken the law's ability to enforce that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer".

Harold P. Wimmer
National President & CEO
American Lung Association