



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

December 10, 2012

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take the necessary steps to protect our nation's most vulnerable by issuing the strongest particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}) standards supported by the science. Despite the progress made under the Clean Air Act, millions of Americans still breathe unhealthy air.

Research shows that air pollution harms some communities more than others. A 2011 report by the CDC highlights that Latinos, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders are more likely to live in areas where air pollution fails to meet national standards. Studies repeatedly found lower income or education levels linked to increased risk of premature death from particulate matter.

The current, out-of-date standards fail to protect public health, especially the health of people with lung disease, heart disease, or diabetes, children and the elderly and low income Americans and communities of color who bear the greatest burden from air pollution.

The historically marginalized communities many of us represent stand to benefit the most if the EPA takes the following steps:

- Reduces the annual PM_{2.5} standard to 11 micrograms per cubic meter
- Reduces the 24-hr PM_{2.5} standard to 25 micrograms per cubic meter
- Requires an expanded network of PM monitors near major roadways

Because of the disproportionate impact of pollution on low-income communities of color, we encourage EPA to enact these safeguards to reduce the number of hospital admissions, emergency room visits and premature deaths related to cardiovascular and respiratory complications.

According to the American Lung Association and based on extensive scientific evidence, stronger particle pollution standards will protect vulnerable groups and prevent hundreds of thousands of illnesses and tens of thousands of premature deaths each year. Not only does this make good moral sense, it makes fiscal sense as well.

In the spirit of Executive Order 12898, we urge your Agency to stand with us and the communities and organizations we represent in support of strengthening both the annual and daily standards because everyone deserves a chance to breathe healthy air.

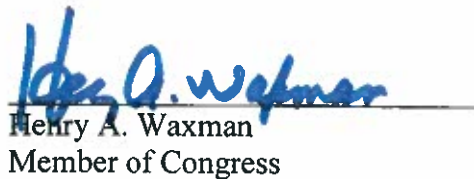
Sincerely,



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



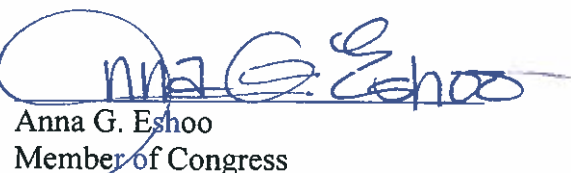
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



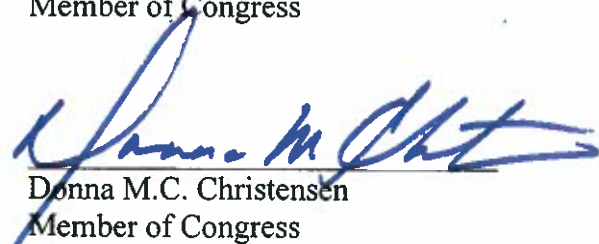
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



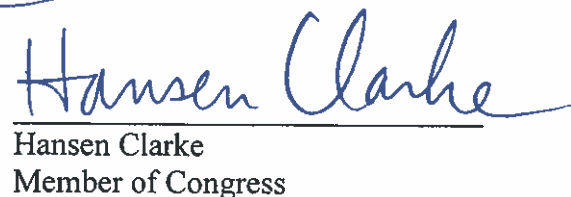
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



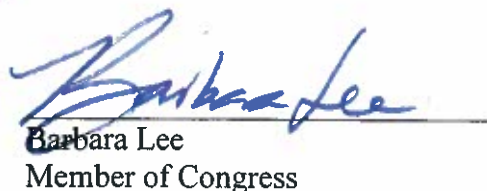
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



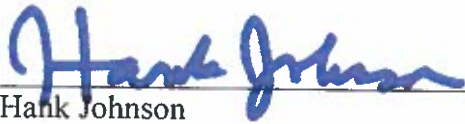
Donna M.C. Christensen
Member of Congress



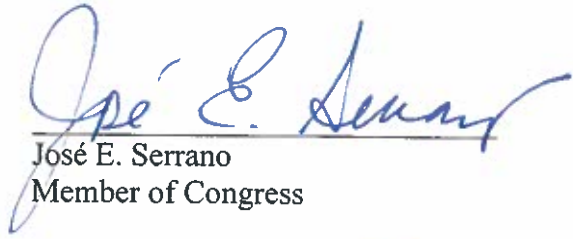
Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



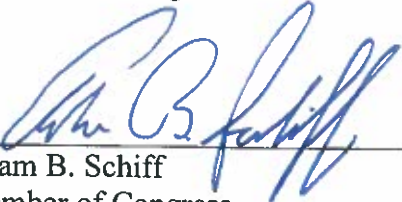
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



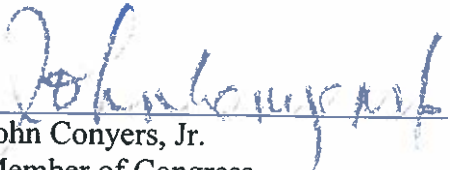
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress




Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



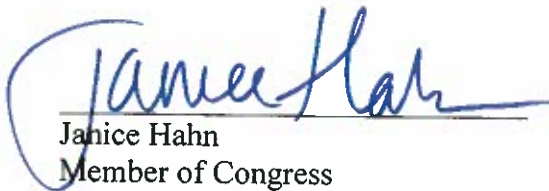
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



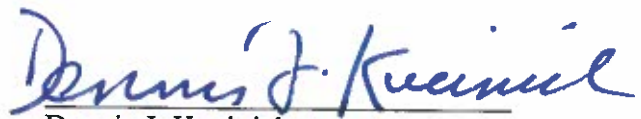
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

John Lewis
John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

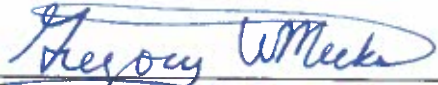
Alcee L. Hastings
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



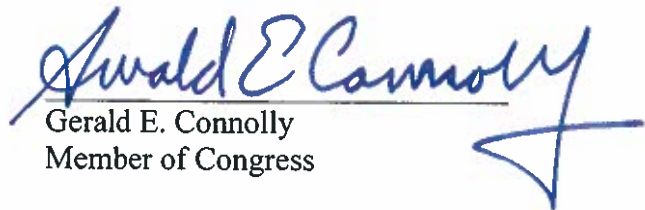
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



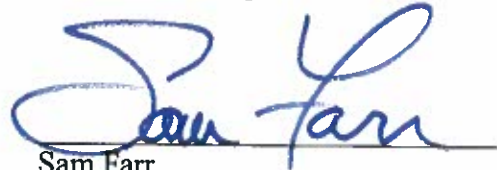
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



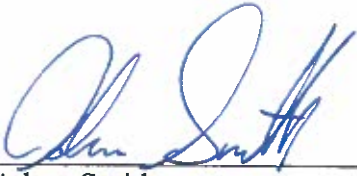
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



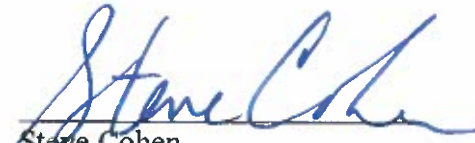
Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



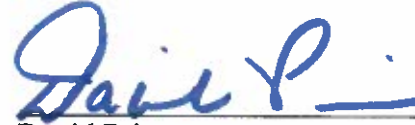
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress

cc: Gina McCarthy
AA for the Office of Air and Radiation