

## Preserving the Clean Air Act

*EPA's authority to address climate change under the Clean Air Act must not be blocked or delayed.*

### ***Climate Change Threatens Public Health Today.***

- Climate change already endangers Americans' health due to greater risks from wildfires, increased risk of high ozone and particle pollution, more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and more. The nation needs every tool in the toolbox to reduce emissions and avoid the worst impacts.
- [National health and medical organizations](#) support decisive action to mitigate climate change and protect public health.



### ***The Clean Air Act Gives EPA the Authority and Responsibility to Reduce Climate Pollution.***

- The Clean Air Act provides the national, enforceable requirement for reducing emissions that cause climate change.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that the Clean Air Act requires EPA to limit pollution that causes climate change because of EPA's duty to reduce emissions that harm human health.
- The Lung Association supports protecting EPA's authority to set limits on these pollutants and provide a wide range of tools to reduce emissions.
- The Lung Association also supports emissions limits that will drive cleanup at every source to ensure that all communities – especially those surrounding a source – are protected from air pollution and climate change.

### ***Congressional action is essential to address climate change, but EPA must continue to have the authority to take action under the Clean Air Act to protect public health.***

- [EPA must maintain authority](#) to reduce greenhouse gases even as Congress takes additional action. If, for example, Congress enacts a carbon tax, EPA provides the resources to enforce compliance with standards as well as the



opportunity for citizens to sue to ensure cleanup. sources that successfully clean up emissions stemming from a carbon tax will be 'deemed to comply' with EPA standards.

- EPA's authority would bolster the effectiveness of legislation and would serve as a backstop to ensure that the U.S. can still immediately reduce emissions even if climate legislation is weakened or overturned, or fails to meet its targets.
- As long as climate legislation is working effectively, EPA will not need to advance duplicative limits.

***The American Lung Association opposes legislation that blocks, delays, removes or weakens EPA authority to limit carbon, methane and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.***

For more information

Liz Mueller, National Director, Advocacy, Healthy Air Campaign – [Liz.Mueller@Lung.org](mailto:Liz.Mueller@Lung.org)

January 26, 2021