



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mister Speaker,

We write to urge you to support the Clean Air Act, which is one of America's great bipartisan pieces of legislation. The law has led to unprecedented environmental and public health strides, while at the same time our economy has more than tripled. The Clean Air Act has sharply reduced air pollution over the past forty years, allowing millions of Americans to lead healthier, more productive, and longer lives.

Unfortunately, this landmark legislation, which was adopted and amended by overwhelming bipartisan majorities, is now under attack. We ask you to oppose efforts to undermine this landmark law. In particular, EPA has responsibility, pursuant to the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, to take steps to curb carbon emissions using its current Clean Air Act authority. Indeed, EPA has already wisely used this authority to implement one national automobile standard to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions.

The Clean Air Act was enacted in 1970, and significantly amended in 1990, with strong bipartisan support. In both instances we had divided government, with a Democratic Congress and Republicans in the White House. We worked together across party lines to enact a law that would protect public health and the environment, as well as our economy. We were successful. Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has reduced key air pollutants by 60%, while at the same time the economy grew by over 200%.

Air pollution is costly. It increases asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, respiratory diseases, and lung cancer, and causes premature deaths, hurting our families and burdening our economy. Children and seniors are particularly vulnerable to its effects. Cleaner air, a healthier population, and a stronger economy go hand-in-hand. In addition to keeping workers on the job, cleaning up air pollution can create new jobs – in designing and manufacturing pollution controls, installing and operating new equipment, and building cleaner facilities.

Congress has consistently rejected efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act and must do so again. We urge you to join us in keeping the Clean Air Act strong and the air safe and healthy to breathe.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman      Ben Rayburn      Bob J. Frost

Walter B. Jones      Jim Cooper      Debbie Wasserman Schultz

John Dingell      David B. Bonior      Kathy Castor

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Joe Courtney      Doris O. Matsui      Mike Thompson

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Donna F. Edwards      Ben Lujan      John Lewis

Shelley Berkley      K. Michael Burke      Cathy McMorris-Ross

Paul D. Tonko      Lili      Arnold E. Cantor

John A. Boehner      Bill Keating      \_\_\_\_\_

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Liz Capps

Pete Pappas

Gary L. Coleman  
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Peter J. Vukobratovic

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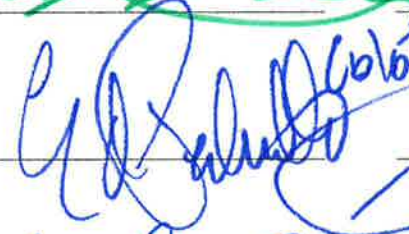
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