



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**

M I C H I G A N

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

REMARKS BY SUSAN SMITH, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN

September 29, 2011

Delray Community Center, Detroit

"I'm Sue Smith and I'm President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. I'm pleased to be here today to honor and thank Representative Hanson Clarke for his defense of the Clean Air Act and the public's health.

Just last Friday, Representative Clarke voted against the Train Act amendments which would fundamentally weaken the Clean Air Act. The amendments would eliminate the 40 year requirement that EPA base the clean air standards on health science and medicine alone. The amendments would also delay the enforcement of smog and soot standards.

Thank you, Representative for voting against these amendments.

The League of Women Voters has joined a coalition of 15 other organizations in a Clean Air Promise Campaign to fight against these and other attempts to roll back the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Nationally, the Clean Air Act has protected the health of our families and communities. In 2010, the Clean Air Act saved more than 160,000 lives.

Some of those who attack the Clean Air Act have tried to do so on the basis of economic impact. They claim that purchasing equipment that would give us clean air costs too much, and yet, cleaner air has significant economic benefits that outweigh the costs. Studies have shown that clean air standards have resulted in better health and productivity for American workers, as well as savings on medical expenses for air pollution-related health problems. Americans Want Clean Air Protections

A broad base of constituencies has called on Congress to oppose efforts to block the safe guards that protect our families and communities. They include the American Medical Association, American Lung Association, Conference of Mayors, League of Women Voters, National Council of Churches, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sierra Club, Small Business Majority and numerous others.

Public polls show that two-thirds of voters support updating Clean Air Act standards and are opposed to Congress standing in the way. By nearly a 20-point margin, voters believe that updated standards will boost, rather than harm job creation.

For all the reasons I have mentioned, the League of Women Voters and 15 other organizations have joined together in a Clean Air Promise Campaign. In 1970, Congress made a promise to future generations by passing the Clean Air Act. Our air is safer now, but not safe enough for the most vulnerable in our communities. It is up to us to keep the promise and to make our own promise to generations to come.

Representative Clarke will you make the promise of clean air to future generations? Thank you.

While we have talked about reports and statistics, what makes this all real are the stories about real people who are dealing with real problems. One of the reasons I feel so strongly about the need to protect our clean air is my six year old grandson. He has asthma and I know his health is negatively impacted by the smog that is in the air.

People here in this Detroit Neighborhood also have stories to tell. I call upon a representative of the Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision to tell us those stories."