

LWV is the organization where your hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to tangible civic improvement.

August 10, 2011

Representative Fred Upton
157 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 180
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Representative Upton,

The Clean Air Act is one of the most successful public policies in history. It has provided strong public health protections. According to the EPA, the Clean Air Act saved 160,000 adults and 230 infants in 2010 alone. It also prevented 130,000 non-fatal heart attacks, 86,000 emergency room visits, and 1.7 million acute asthma attacks. The League of Women Voters has stood behind and worked to defend the Clean Air Act for 40 years.

Unfortunately, there have been repeated attempts in Congress to roll back public health protections provided by the Clean Air Act that, in some instances, have been in place for decades. Weakening these protections would essentially sentence thousands of Americans to early deaths, hundreds of thousands of children to wheeze their way through asthma attacks, and exposing unborn babies to levels of mercury that could irreparably damage their brains.

Economic studies from the Economic Policy Institute and the Office of Management and Budget, based on past updates and solid economic projections, have demonstrated the significant positive economic impact of updated clean air standards. The American Lung Association has shown the annual direct health care cost of asthma as \$15.6 billion, with another \$5.1 billion in indirect costs. Looking at the economic and health data, can we afford to not implement clean air standards?

In 1970, Congress made a promise to future generations by passing the Clean Air Act and providing a mechanism for enforcement. Twenty years ago, Congress passed bipartisan updates. It is up to our present leaders to keep that promise.

The Clean Air Promise

I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.

Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,

I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.

Will you make the Clean Air Promise?

Sincerely,



Susan Smith
President, League of Women Voters of Michigan