



February 21, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William J. Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Zeldin:

The undersigned health and medical organizations write to offer ourselves as a resource as you take charge as the new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. We strongly support the mission and lifesaving work of EPA. The Agency plays a critical role in protecting health for all people across the country, including by reducing air pollution. American prosperity depends on a healthy workforce and healthy children, and clean air is fundamental to good health.

Our organizations work across a variety of areas and activities – from representing healthcare providers who treat patients, to training health professionals, to running programs that reduce kids' risk of health harm from pollution – but we are united by our common focus on protecting people's health. Our organizations have worked together with EPA for decades to reduce pollutants in outdoor air and protect the health of all people. We look forward to helping EPA continue its work of reducing air pollution to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all.

One area of particular importance for our organizations is the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Clean Air Act has clearly laid out the schedules, the requirements, and the processes with which EPA is required to regulate air quality and reduce air pollution. For the most common pollutants, the criteria air pollutants, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to review the latest science on the health impacts of these pollutant exposures every five years, in order to determine if the existing primary human health-based NAAQS align with the science. If the science and the standards don't match, then the Act requires that the NAAQS be revised.

The multidisciplinary science that underlies the NAAQS encompasses a wide spectrum of research fields: epidemiology, toxicology, laboratory-based controlled exposure research, air quality modeling, atmospheric physics and chemistry, to name a few. As part of the NAAQS review process, the Clean Air Act requires that an independent Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) constituting scientific experts evaluate

current science and advise the EPA administrator on setting the NAAQS. CASAC is a critical part of EPA's work because of the expertise the committee has to offer. Also critical are the additional pollutant-specific panels that past EPA administrators have overseen under CASAC, which provide additional expertise on extremely complex air pollution topics.

To best serve the Agency and the public, we ask that as EPA works through the process of securing new CASAC members, it ensures strong representation from health science experts. We further ask the same for the pollutant-specific individual CASAC panels. The Clean Air Act has requirements for CASAC membership, and within these requirements, memberships should be drawn from the mainstream of scientific thinkers across various fields (represented by academia, health and medical institutions, non-profit organizations, and state and local government officials from different parts of the country). These individuals must have the depth of knowledge to evaluate research data objectively and rigorously and follow the NAAQS process with scientific integrity and without any conflict of interest.

Most immediately, the NAAQS of ozone and nitrogen dioxide that are currently in the review process require scientifically robust pollutant-specific panels to ensure that the standards align with current science to best protect public health.

We look forward to continuing to engage in all aspects of the NAAQS process, including these reviews and the implementation of the existing standards.

We are hopeful that under your leadership the EPA continues to build on its historic work in protecting human health and our environment. We look forward to working with you and engaging in the regulatory process.

Signed,

Allergy & Asthma Network  
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Climate Psychiatry Alliance  
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health  
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Environmental Health Association  
National League for Nursing  
OUCH - International  
Physicians for Social Responsibility