

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

April 28, 2006

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

We respectfully request that \$220.3 million be appropriated in Fiscal Year 2007 for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State and Local Air Quality Management Program – restoring it to the level appropriated in FY2006. The President's FY2007 budget request would reduce funding for this important program by \$35.1 million or 16 percent below the FY2006 level.

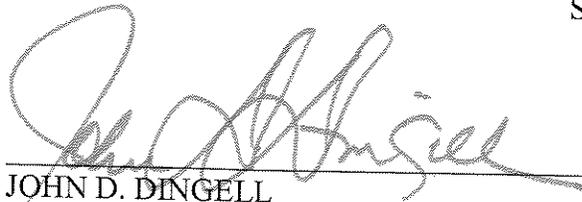
The Clean Air Act (CAA) divides responsibility for protecting the Nation's air among Federal, State and local governments, delegating core operational responsibilities to State and local governments. The act also authorizes EPA to provide grants to help States and local governments meet these delegated Federal responsibilities. These grants support basic air pollution control activities such as monitoring air quality, developing and planning control options, permitting and inspecting sources, enforcing laws and regulations, and educating the public.

Recent EPA actions have increased the workload on State and local air quality agencies. In 2004 and 2005, EPA determined that 126 areas did not meet the new health-based standard for ozone and 39 areas did not meet the new standards for fine particle pollution. As a result of these designations and requirements of the Clean Air Act, over 30 States are required by 2007 or 2008 to develop plans and adopt regulations that will limit air pollution enough to bring these areas into attainment of the national health-based standards.

The proposed \$35.1 million reduction would significantly harm three parts of the State and local air programs. It would eliminate \$15.6 million from the Section 105 grants for individual State and local government core air quality programs, and \$2.5 million from grants for regional planning organizations (which facilitate regional cooperation by State and local governments on air quality issues). Additionally, it would cut funding for the fine particle monitoring program by \$17 million and shift the remaining monitoring grants from section 103 authority to section 105. This shift would increase the burden on States and localities by requiring them to provide matching funds for fine particle monitoring where none are required now.

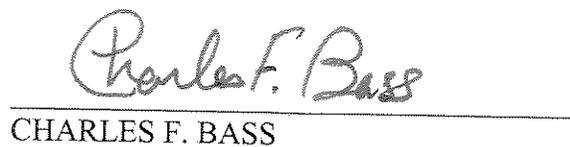
We urge you to restore the funding for this important program to \$220.3 million and not shift funds for monitoring from section 103 authority to section 105. Congress and the American people count on States and localities to implement the Clean Air Act and protect the health and lives of millions of Americans from air pollution. Funding for this vital program should not be decreased at a time when the workload required of States and localities is increasing. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

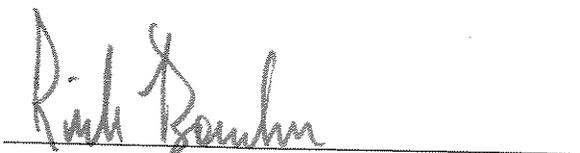
Sincerely,

  
JOHN D. DINGELL

  
SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

  
HENRY A. WAXMAN

  
CHARLES F. BASS

  
Rick Bonior

  
Pat Allen

  
Bart Gordon

  
Paul English

Clark E. Wilde

Edward J. Markey

Dennis J. Kucinich

Eric L. Engel

Don Mu

Hilda L. Solis

Michael M. Hondo

Barbara Lee

Donald W. Payne

Lance Evans

George Miller

Benny Frank

Jim Moran

Jack Levin

Richard E. Hall

Shel Brown

Ken Lu

Bobby L. Rush

Stephen J. Spivey

Albert R. Brown

Mike Row

Jim McEwen

~~Tom~~ Seull

Frank Pallone

Carl S. Giff

Patrick J. Kennedy

Kid Strickland

John J. Dingell

Michael H. Michaud

Tim Ryan

Norm Dicks

Tom Swinnow

Floyd Doggett

James Langevin

Timothy

Ed Case

Daniel Lipinski

Earl Blumenauer

Pauline Hooley

J. Saxton

Tony Balderr

Diane White

Neuhart R. Caputo

Ernest Cline

Louis Capps

Jan Schatz

John V. Gutierrez

John Lujan

Kenneth R. Gibson

Tom Jefferson

Jim McDermott

Tom Allen

Julia Carson

Cheryl Spivey

John L. LeBunilo

**Signatures on the April 28, 2006, letter to  
Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks regarding Restoration of FY2007 Funding  
for EPA State and Local Air Quality Management Program:**

Dingell, John D. (D-MI-15)  
Boehlert, Sherwood (R-NY-24)  
Waxman, Henry A. (D-CA-30)  
Bass, Charles F. (R-NH-02)  
Boucher, Rick (D-VA-09)  
Fossella, Vito (R-NY-13)  
Gordon, Bart (D-TN-06)  
English, Phil (R-PA-03)  
Kildee, Dale E. (D-MI-05)  
Markey, Edward J. (D-MA-07)  
Honda, Michael M. (D-CA-15)  
Moore, Dennis (D-KS-03)  
Engel, Eliot L. (D-NY-17)  
Kucinich, Dennis J. (D-OH-10)  
Solis, Hilda L. (D-CA-32)  
Lee, Barbara (D-CA-09)  
Payne, Donald M. (D-NJ-10)  
Evans, Lane (D-IL-17)  
Miller, George (D-CA-07)  
Frank, Barney (D-MA-04)  
Moran, James P. (D-VA-08)  
Neal, Richard E. (D-MA-02)  
Levin, Sander M. (D-MI-12)  
Green, Gene (D-TX-29)  
Brown, Sherrod (D-OH-13)  
Rush, Bobby L. (D-IL-01)  
Lynch, Stephen F. (D-MA-09)  
Schiff, Adam B. (D-CA-29)  
Ross, Mike (D-AR-04)  
Strickland, Ted (D-OH-06)  
Gerlach, Jim (R-PA-06)  
Wynn, Albert R. (D-MD-04)  
McGovern, James (D-MA-03)  
Pallone, Frank, Jr. (D-NJ-06)  
Kennedy, Patrick J. (D-RI-01)  
Inslee, Jay (D-WA-10)  
Michaud, Michael (D-ME-02)  
Ryan, Tim (D-OH-17)  
Smith, Adam (D-WA-09)  
Simmons, Robert (R-CT-02)  
Doggett, Lloyd (D-TX-25)

Langevin, James R. (D-RI-02)  
Johnson, Timothy V. (R-IL-15)  
Case, Ed (D-HI-02)  
Lipinski, Dan (D-IL-03)  
Gutierrez, Luis V. (D-IL-04)  
Blumenauer, Earl (D-OR-03)  
Conyers, John (D-MI-14)  
Hooley, Darlene (D-OR-05)  
Johnson, Nancy L. (R-CT-05)  
Saxton, Jim (R-NJ-03)  
Jefferson, William J. (D-LA-02)  
Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI-02)  
McDermott, Jim (D-WA-07)  
DeGette, Diana (D-CO-01)  
Allen, Thomas H. (D-ME-01)  
Capuano, Michael E. (D-MA-08)  
Carson, Julia (D-IN-07)  
Cleaver, Emanuel (D-MO-05)  
Shays, Christopher (R-CT-04)  
Capps, Lois (D-CA-23)  
LoBiondo, Frank A. (R-NJ-02)  
Schakowsky, Jan (D-IL-09)