

already undoing some of the progress the nation has made to clean up air pollution, with record high temperatures leading to the formation of more ground-level ozone pollution or smog and more frequent and intense wildfires that send smoke and soot across the country.

We support the President's FY23 budget request of \$11.9 billion for EPA. Within the Agency, there are a number of air-focused programs providing critical public health programs that must receive more adequate investment. The programs included in this letter is not an exhaustive list but represents key priorities of the undersigned health groups.

Clean Air Program

The work conducted under the Clean Air and Climate program protects people from the impacts of air pollution, improves health and saves lives. This program assists states, Tribes and localities with resources and support to help meet federal air quality standards. Activities like testing vehicles for emissions levels and the reduction of carbon, methane and other climate pollutants are also funded by this program. **Please provide at least \$705.5 million for EPA's Clean Air Program.**

Categorical Grants for State, Local and Tribal Air Monitoring

State, local and Tribal air agencies receive grants from EPA to help maintain their air monitoring networks. When this funding started, the intention was to fund a majority of participating air agency budgets. With time, however, this funding has failed to cover the costs of adequately maintaining and improving air monitors. This funding is crucial to informing the public on any air quality risks to their health and in identifying areas that are most in need of pollution cleanup. After surveying their members, the National Association of Clean Air Agencies recently said that in order to adequately operate the nation's air quality monitoring networks, increases in federal funds are needed². **Please provide \$500 million for State and Local Air Quality Management and \$33 million for Tribal Air Quality Management.**

Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program

The Diesel Emissions Reduction (DERA) Grant program continues to be a cost-effective program that enjoys bipartisan support. According to a 2019 EPA report, every \$1 spent on DERA yields up to \$30 in health benefits. Still though, there are millions of dirty diesel engines

necessary to meet those promises. **Please provide at least \$294.9 million for enforcing environmental justice commitments.**

Wildfires

Wildfires unfortunately are no longer a rare occurrence and in fact, wildfire smoke is becoming an increasingly urgent threat to health. There currently is no centralized federal effort that works to answer the questions around how best to protect health from wildfire smoke. EPA's work to protect health from poor air quality makes the agency a good fit for this program. The President's FY23 budget request included a program that health groups like the American Thoracic Society and American Lung Association have been advocating for. Under this program, EPA would lead work with the U.S. Forest Service to research the health impacts of wildfire smoke and offer answers to the questions communities face when wildfire smoke degrades the air around them. **Please provide \$15 million for a new program at EPA, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, to study the health impacts of wildfire smoke.**

EPA's work is critical in protecting health from poor air quality and addressing the sources of both air and climate pollution. Appropriately funding the agency to complete this work is a responsibility we urge Congress to meet. Please support \$11.9 billion in funding to EPA in Fiscal Year 2023.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Lung Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Children's Environmental Health Network

Climate for Health from ecoAmerica

Climate Psychiatry Alliance

Health Care Without Harm

Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners