CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION

GEORGE H. HENRY
CHIEF OF STAFF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

December 10, 2012

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take the necessary steps to protect our nation's most vulnerable by issuing the strongest particulate matter 2.5 ($PM_{2.5}$) standards supported by the science. Despite the progress made under the Clean Air Act, millions of Americans still breathe unhealthy air.

Research shows that air pollution harms some communities more than others. A 2011 report by the CDC highlights that Latinos, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders are more likely to live in areas where air pollution fails to meet national standards. Studies repeatedly found lower income or education levels linked to increased risk of premature death from particulate matter.

The current, out-of-date standards fail to protect public health, especially the health of people with lung disease, heart disease, or diabetes, children and the elderly and low income Americans and communities of color who bear the greatest burden from air pollution.

The historically marginalized communities many of us represent stand to benefit the most if the EPA takes the following steps:

- Reduces the annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard to 11 micrograms per cubic meter
- Reduces the 24-hr $PM_{2.5}$ standard to 25 micrograms per cubic meter
- Requires an expanded network of PM monitors near major roadways

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2354 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–3215
TELEPHONE: (202) 225–4365
FAX: (202) 225–0816

PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

DISTRICT OFFICE
163 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 663–3900
FAX: (212) 663–4277

Because of the disproportionate impact of pollution on low-income communities of color, we encourage EPA to enact these safeguards to reduce the number of hospital admissions, emergency room visits and premature deaths related to cardiovascular and respiratory complications.

According to the American Lung Association and based on extensive scientific evidence, stronger particle pollution standards will protect vulnerable groups and prevent hundreds of thousands of illnesses and tens of thousands of premature deaths each year. Not only does this make good moral sense, it makes fiscal sense as well.

In the spirit of Executive Order 12898, we urge your Agency to stand with us and the communities and organizations we represent in support of strengthening both the annual and daily standards because everyone deserves a chance to breathe healthy air.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Donna M.C. Christensen
Member of Congress

Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

David Price
Member of Congress

cc: Gina McCarthy
AA for the Office of Air and Radiation