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April 7, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20501

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write to express our strong opposition to proposals that would undermine the public health benefits of the Clean Air Act and diminish the long-held rights of states to protect our residents from pollution.

Our states are at the front lines of the battle for economic recovery, energy security, and clean air. These goals are not opposed to each other. Instead, each is served by sensible, steady policies to promote investment in 21<sup>st</sup> century energy and transportation. The Clean Air Act is the bedrock of American public health law, and is well suited to these new challenges.

Over the past 40 years, the Clean Air Act, often with the states in the lead, has saved hundreds of thousands of lives and generated trillions of dollars in economic benefits to our nation. During that time, the sensible tools of the Clean Air Act have consistently proven less costly and more beneficial than either its critics or supporters predicted. We fully expect this pattern will continue as the Act is used to reduce the serious threat of carbon pollution.

Current Congressional proposals to preempt the Clean Air Act and eviscerate state authority – including H.R. 910 – would subject Americans to dirtier air, undermine the investment in energy efficiency and cleaner technologies that provide much-needed jobs in our states, and increase uncertainty for business and industry.

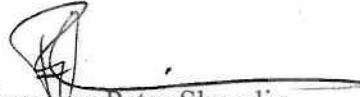
H.R. 910 would repeal the scientific findings of the nation's premier scientific bodies, handcuff the use of sensible, proven tools to reduce carbon emissions, and compromise states' ability to protect their own residents from pollution. It would deprive Americans of cleaner cars that save money at the pump and reduce our dependency on foreign oil, while subjecting our citizens to dirtier air and increased health risks. And it would exacerbate our nation's lamentable pattern of energy policy flip-flopping, discouraging investment and job creation while undermining energy security.

Most insidious is the attack on state rights. Under the Clean Air Act, states adopt Clean Car standards that drive innovation and reduce pollution. State action has resulted in unparalleled success in reducing emissions, generating more efficient technologies, and increasing energy security, even when federal standards have stalled. The National Program of harmonized state-federal emission standards and fuel economy regulations – supported by every major stakeholder, including states, industry, environmental organizations, consumer groups, and labor organizations – is the result of state action. H.R. 910 would halt these efforts in their tracks and return us to the failed energy stalemate of the last decade.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 910 and any other proposed legislation that undermines the Clean Air Act or proposes preemption of state authority.

Sincerely,


  
Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
Washington

  
Governor Peter Shumlin  
Vermont


  
Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland

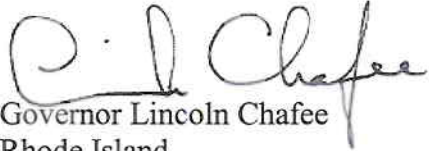
  
Governor Dan Malloy  
Connecticut

  
Governor John Hickenlooper  
Colorado

  
Governor Neil Abercrombie  
Hawaii

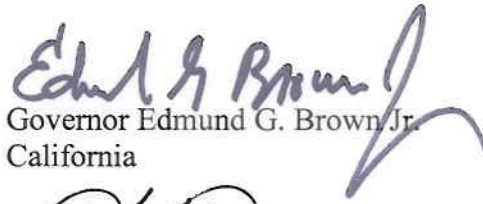
  
Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts

  
Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



Handwritten signature of Lincoln Chafee in black ink.

Governor Lincoln Chafee  
Rhode Island



Handwritten signature of Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in black ink.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
California



Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink.

Governor Mark Dayton  
Minnesota



Handwritten signature of John A. Kitzhaber in black ink.

Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Oregon