



July 24th, 2017

Dear Senator,

We are writing on behalf of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health—a group of American medical societies representing 450,000 physicians—over half the doctors in the country<sup>1</sup>.

The mission of the Consortium is to inform the public and policymakers about the serious harms to the health of Americans caused by climate change, and about the potential to improve the health of all Americans health by responding to climate change. It is clear that a strong ozone standard is important to the health of all who breathe the air in every Congressional District in the U.S. As the average temperatures rise, there will be more days on which ozone levels will rise—even without additional emissions from point sources and transportation.

Weakening the ozone standard will harm the health of Americans. In the 2015 review of the ozone standard, EPA examined an extensive body of scientific evidence demonstrating that ozone causes lung inflammation, leading to increased rates of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and premature deaths. A growing body of research indicates that ozone may also cause harm to developing fetuses.

Weakening the ozone standard will harm patients and the public at large, and will increase health care costs. The American people – indeed, people everywhere – deserve clean air. Maintaining a strong ozone standard is essential. Please prioritize the health of your constituents and do not weaken the ozone standard.

If you have any questions about the Consortium, please contact Executive Director Mona Sarfaty, MD, MPH, FAAFP at [msarfaty@gmu.edu](mailto:msarfaty@gmu.edu) or 703-993-2086.

Sincerely,

The American College of Physicians  
The American Academy of Family Physicians  
The American Academy of Pediatrics  
The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
The American Medical Association  
The American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
The American College of Preventive Medicine  
The American Geriatrics Society  
The Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine  
The American Association of Community Psychiatrists  
The American Telemedicine Association  
The National Medical Association  
The Society of General Internal Medicine  
American College of Emergency Physicians, CA Chapter

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<sup>1</sup> *The mission of the Consortium is to inform the public and policymakers about the harmful health effects of climate change on Americans, and about the immediate and long-term health benefits associated with decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and other preventive and protective measures. This mission is reflected in the Consortium's Consensus Statement and in the report "Medical Alert! Climate Change is Harming Our Health" which can be found here: <https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org/reports/medical-alert/>. The members of the Consortium include the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM), American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Association of Community Psychiatrists (AACP), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American College of Physicians (ACP), American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), American Geriatrics Society (AGS), American Medical Association (AMA), American Telemedicine Association (ATA), California Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians, National Medical Association (NMA), and Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM).*