



John F. "Jack" Sutter
Chair

Terri E. Weaver, Ph.D.
Chair-elect

Charles A. Heinrich
Past-Chair

Robert A. Green, M.D.
Vice-Chair

James M. Anderson
Secretary

William Kowalewski
Treasurer

John L. Kirkwood
*President &
Chief Executive Officer*

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

61 Broadway
New York, NY 10006-2701
phone: (212) 315-8700
fax: (212) 315-8800

1150 18th Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036-3816
phone: (202) 785-3355
fax: (202) 452-1805

For over 100 years, the
nationwide American Lung
Association has worked in
the fight against lung disease.

www.lungusa.org

1-800-LUNG-USA
(1-800-586-4872)

**Improving Life,
One Breath at a Time**

For Immediate Release
May 3, 2006

Contact: Diane Maple
202-785-3355

Statement of John L. Kirkwood
President and CEO
American Lung Association

Last week, the American Lung Association issued our State of the Air 2006 report assessing air quality across the nation. Our report shows real improvement in the air quality in many states. Through this annual report, we are documenting the effect of decisions in 1998 to reduce ozone pollution in the eastern United States, where dirty power plants have been polluting the air for decades. It is clear that efforts to control pollution are making a difference. We are seeing the benefits of cleaning up dirty power plants in lower levels of smog and particle pollution, providing healthier air for Americans to breathe.

But the job is far from being finished. The State of the Air 2006 report finds that more than 150 million Americans still live in counties where they are exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution. We know also that, despite the efforts to reduce power plant pollution so far, many power plants continue to be major sources of dangerous air pollution and a large number are still not controlled at all.

Senators Carper, Chafee, Alexander and Gregg's Clean Air Planning Act would take a major step forward in obtaining the additional air pollution reductions that we need from power plants across the United States. It would result in broad regional reductions in particle pollution and smog. But unlike the Clear Skies legislation pending in Congress, this bill will not weaken provisions in the existing Clean Air Act needed to control emissions from individual power plants that contribute to local air pollution problems. We applaud the senators' efforts.

However, we remain concerned about the timing of the proposed reductions. Millions of Americans cannot afford to wait for cleaner air. The Clean Air Planning Act-mandated power plant pollution reductions must come sooner, no later than 2010, to bring healthy air to communities in the timeline the Clean Air Act requires and the American public expects. Each year we wait, literally thousands of lives are lost.

Mounting scientific evidence shows that cleaning up the major sources of air pollution, as this legislation would do, will result in cleaner air and less illness and death. We are pleased to see bipartisan support for cleaner air. Reducing air pollution from power plants is a critical public health need. The American Lung Association remains committed to cleaning up the air to protect millions of Americans who still breathe unhealthy air.

###