



American Academy of Pediatrics ▪ American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine ▪
American College of Preventive Medicine ▪ American Lung Association ▪ American Medical Association ▪
American Nurses Association ▪ American Public Health Association ▪ American Thoracic Society ▪
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials ▪ Children's Environmental Health Network ▪ Health
Care without Harm ▪ Hepatitis Foundation International ▪ National Association of County and City Health
Officials ▪ National Association of Local Boards of Health ▪ National Environmental Health Association ▪
Partnership for Prevention ▪ Physicians for Social Responsibility ▪ Trust for America's Health

November 15, 2010

The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The United States Congress
Washington, DC 20510

To President Obama and Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

Climate change is a serious public health issue. As temperatures rise, more Americans will be exposed to conditions that can result in illness and death due to respiratory illness, heat- and weather-related stress and disease carried by insects. These health issues are likely to have the greatest impact on our most vulnerable communities, including children, older adults, those with serious health conditions and the most economically disadvantaged.

The latest assessment from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), the [*Global Climate Change Impacts in the U.S.*](#), states that "Climate change poses unique challenges to human health.... There are direct health impacts from heat waves and severe storms, ailments caused or exacerbated by air pollution and airborne allergens, and many climate-sensitive infectious diseases."

As public health professionals, we are writing to urge you to recognize the threat to public health posed by climate change and to support measures that will reduce these risks and strengthen the ability of our local, state and federal public health agencies to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

In order to prepare for changes already under way, it is essential to strengthen our public health system so it is able to protect our communities from the health effects of heat waves, wildfires, floods, droughts, infectious diseases, and other events. But we must also address the root of the problem, which means reducing the emissions that contribute to climate change. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting the public's health from climate change, and we urge you to fully support the EPA in fulfilling its responsibilities. **We also urge opposition to any efforts to weaken, delay or block the EPA from protecting the public's health from these risks.**

To provide the most complete protection for Americans, Congress should resume efforts to pass clean energy and climate legislation that includes strong provisions to protect public health adequately and appropriately.

Sincerely,

Maine Health Organizations

American Lung Association of New England
Maine Medical Association
Maine Nurse Practitioners Association
Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility
Maine Public Health Association

Maine Health Professionals

Charles Acker, Physiological Psychologist, PhD, Whitefield
Karma Alley, LPN, Addison
David Beebe, ME, Winterport
Stephen Benson, Clinical Psychologist, PhD, Blue Hill
Greg Bianconi, MD, Lisbon
Ronald Blum, MD, Patten
Patricia Boston, RN, MSN, Biddeford
Debra Bumbaugh, RN, Sullivan
Catherine Bunker, RN, Southwest Harbor
Ellen Celli, RN, Brewer
Veronica Conley, RN, Roque Bluffs
Steve Diaz, MD, Fairfield
Norma Dreyfus, MD, Westport Island
Carol Eckert, MD, Coopers Mills
Tammy Farwell, RN, Houlton
O. Thomas Feagin, MD, Readfield
Coralie Giles, RN, Brewer
Maroulla Gleaton, MD, Palermo
Karen Gleeson, MSW, MA, MS, Northport
Lani Graham, MD, MPH, Freeport
Nancy Hasenfus, MD, Bath
Linda Hermans, MD, Richmond
Nancy Horie, MD, Auburn
Richard Jennings, MD, Fayette
Barbara Joyce, RN, BSN, Brewer
Mary Jude, FNPC, PS, MSN, MPH, Orrington
Eileen Kalikow, CRC, Portland
Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, Professor of Clinical Nutrition, Orono
John Knowles, Sr., MD, Yarmouth
Paul Liebow, MD, FACEP, Bucksport
Jo Linder, MD, West Falmouth
James Little, MD, Portland
Andrea Longley, RN, Orrington
Paul Mazur, MD, MPH, Belfast
Robert McAfee, MD, Portland
Ona McAvoy, RN, Benedicta
Daniel Meyer, PhD, Medical Sociology, Augusta
Danielle Mutty, MD, Castine
Lawrence Mutty, MD, MPH, Castine
Daniel Onion, MD, MPH, Augusta
Daniel Oppenheimer, PhD, MD, Falmouth
Tony Owens, MD, FACEP, Cape Elizabeth
Phyllis Reames, RN, CNM, Portland
Sydney Sewall, MD, Hallowell
Paul Shapero, MD, Bangor
Ann Simmons, MD, Calais
Amy Simpson, LCSW, Portland
Marianne Vandiver, Physician Assistant, Penobscot
John VanPelt, MD, FAAP, Surry
Edward Walworth, MD, Lewiston
Allen Wicken, RPT, Rangeley