

STAPPA / ALAPCO

STATE AND TERRITORIAL
AIR POLLUTION PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATORS

ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL OFFICIALS

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Administration's Budget Proposal Slashes Funding to States and Localities for Public Health Protection

The Administration has proposed to slash federal funding for programs that protect our citizens from the serious dangers posed by air pollution. Under its proposed budget request, announced today, the Administration seeks to reduce funding for state and local clean air programs by over \$35 million, which represents a cut of 16 percent. Such a decrease will decimate these important public health protections, according to state and local air quality officials.

"Right now, over 150 million people live in areas of the country that violate new, health-based air quality standards for smog and small airborne particles, and unsafe levels of cancer-causing toxic air pollution are pervasive. This is clearly not the time to be revoking already scarce resources," said Bill Becker, Executive Director of the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO), who explained that state and local air quality agencies design and implement plans to eradicate the public health threats associated with air pollution.

States and localities rely on the federal grants slated for reduction to carry out core elements of their clean air strategies. If Congress adopts the proposed cuts, it will obstruct critical efforts related to reducing ozone, small particle and toxic air pollution; thwart enforcement activities that ensure compliance; impede efforts to monitor sources of pollution and the ambient air; and undercut a host of other programs that are key to improving and preserving healthful air quality.

STAPPA and ALAPCO also take strong exception to the fact that, at the same time the Administration has proposed to cut state and local air budgets by over \$35 million, it has requested \$50 million for a new, voluntary diesel emission reduction program adopted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. "While our associations strongly support funding for diesel retrofit efforts, we believe such funding is inappropriate in the face of a reduced appropriation for mandatory state and local air quality efforts," stated STAPPA President Eddie Terrill, Director of the Oklahoma Air Quality Division.

“Over the past decade, state and local air grants have not kept pace with inflation, resulting in a practical decrease of 25 percent. With this proposed cut, we are fearful that we will be unable to provide the public with the health protections they expect and deserve,” said ALAPCO President John Paul, Supervisor of the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency in Dayton, Ohio.

STAPPA and ALAPCO are the two national associations of air pollution control agencies in 54 states and territories and more than 165 major metropolitan areas across the country. For more information on the associations, please visit the associations’ website at www.4cleanair.org.

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