



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



Children's Environmental Health Network



CLIMATE for HEALTH



National Medical Association



National WIC Association



February 11, 2020

Dear Senator Carper:

The undersigned health and medical organizations support the Clean Economy Act. Under this bill, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies would use their existing authority to achieve the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Meeting this goal is essential to protecting public health.

Climate change is a health emergency. The science is clear that communities across the country are experiencing enhanced conditions for ozone pollution, dangerous extreme weather and flooding, wildfires and wildfire smoke, vector-borne diseases, and allergies, and that these impacts will continue to worsen without dramatic action to address climate change.

Children, seniors, pregnant women, low-income communities, some communities of color, people with disabilities and people with chronic disease bear a disproportionate burden of the health impacts of climate change.

We strongly support the Clean Economy Act's goal of reaching net-zero climate pollution by 2050, and its requirement that EPA "achieve rapid greenhouse gas emissions reductions, based on the best available science, to protect public health and welfare from the effects of climate change." We also support the requirement that the plan "reduce and minimize pollution and cumulative environmental effects" in disproportionately impacted communities.

The nation must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions while cleaning up other harmful emissions from polluting sources at the same time. In the electricity sector, this means switching to clean, renewable electricity sources and avoiding sources that add to the burden of air pollution, such as burning biomass. Policies must ensure fairness and equity for communities affected by the economic transition and ensure that all communities have the resources they need to prepare for the health impacts of climate change they cannot avoid.

On behalf of our organizations and the patients and communities we serve, thank you for your leadership in protecting public health from the impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Climate for Health
Health Care Without Harm
National Environmental Health Association
National Medical Association
National WIC Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility