

Press release from the American Lung Association

American Lung Association Notifies the Environmental Protection Agency of its Intent to Sue for Failing to Review National Ambient Air Quality Standards

December 30, 2002

On December 24, 2002, the American Lung Association and 8 other environmental groups alerted the Environmental Protection Agency of our intent to file a new lawsuit against them for failure to comply with the Clean Air Act. The Act requires that every five years EPA must complete reviews of the air quality science and national ambient air standards. EPA last completed such a review of the science in 1996, and last reviewed the standards themselves in 1997, when the ozone and fine particle standards were strengthened. Numerous studies have been completed since 1996. The Clean Air Act clearly intended that the science and the standards be reviewed on a regular, five-year basis to ensure the protection of public health. The American Lung Association Board approved this action in September. The American Lung Association is joined by these partners in this lawsuit: Environmental Defense; Natural Resources Defense Council; Sierra Club; Alabama Environmental Council; Clean Air Council; Michigan Environmental Council; Ohio Environmental Council; and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. The step taken on December 24 gives EPA 60 days notice of the organizations' intent to sue the agency.

If you have any questions, please call Janice Nolen, Blake Early or Paul Billings at 202-785-3355.

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The American Lung Association has been fighting lung disease for nearly 100 years. With the generous support of the public and the help of volunteers, the Lung Association has seen many advances against lung disease. However, the work is not finished. As the Lung Association looks forward to its second century, it will continue to strive to make breathing easier for everyone through programs of education, community service, advocacy, and research. American Lung Association's activities are supported by donations to Christmas Seals® and other voluntary contributions. You may obtain additional information at the American Lung Association web at <http://www.lungusa.org>.