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October 17, 2005

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Dear Dr. Lloyd:

I am writing to commend the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) for the release of the new report on secondhand smoke, entitled *Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant*.

Updating a 1997 report on the hazards of secondhand smoke, Cal/EPA closely reviewed hundreds of epidemiologic and toxicological studies. You characterized the exposure of nonsmokers to various constituents in secondhand smoke, quantified developmental and carcinogenic risks, performed special analyses to address questions of scientific uncertainty, and carefully responded to concerns raised by experts.

Cal/EPA concluded that secondhand smoke causes cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, lung cancer, breast cancer, asthma, sudden infant death syndrome, and many other serious conditions. You estimated that secondhand smoke kills fifty thousand Americans, including four thousand Californians, each year.

I recognize the immense labor involved in preparing this report, including detailed and independent scientific peer review, and I thank you and your staff for your efforts. Cal/EPA's important findings should inform policy to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke at the local, state, and federal levels.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member