

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston, Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
DC 20515-6024

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6157

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We the undersigned public and environmental health organizations write to you in support of fiscal 2015 appropriations for public health and prevention activities at CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH). Chronic disease rates continue to climb, inflicting the burden of preventable death and illness on millions of Americans and contributing to the growing cost of health care. According to the World Health Organization, environmental factors account for roughly a quarter of our current disease burden and 23 percent of all deaths.

However, our nation's investments in studying, understanding, and improving environmental health have been severely cut in recent years, particularly as it pertains to funding levels for NCEH. **We urge Congress to restore NCEH to fiscal year 2010 levels (\$181,004,000) for fiscal year 2015.**

From fiscal year 2009 to 2012, NCEH funding was cut by approximately 25 percent.

As local and state health departments cope with ongoing budget cuts at the local, state and federal level, they are dependent upon CDC for data and