



Oppose H.R. 2401: The “TRAIN” Act Would Derail Public Health Puts 25,300 lives at risk each year

The “TRAIN” Act (H.R. 2401) is an assault on clean air that would indefinitely prevent the clean-up of dangerous power plant air pollution, including mercury, soot, cancer-causing dioxins, and acid gases.

This legislation would sacrifice tens of thousands of lives, pollute the air we breathe, and expose our children, families, and communities to toxic air pollutants that cause illness and developmental disorders, particularly in small children and the unborn.

H.R. 2401 consists of two provisions that threaten Americans’ right to breathe clean air.

1) Blocking Life-saving Clean-up of Toxic Pollution

As amended in Full Committee, H.R. 2401 blocks two critical Clean Air Act standards for power plants: the Mercury and Air Toxics standards, which limit mercury and other toxic air pollution, and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which curbs smog and soot pollution that crosses state lines. Here’s how:

First, the bill forbids the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from re-issuing the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule for a minimum of 19 months, and any Mercury and Air Toxics standards for a minimum of 15 months.

But the amendment does not stop there. It also eliminates any actual deadline for EPA to re-issue standards, repealing current law. Thus, the bill could shelve these life-saving standards indefinitely.

What’s at Stake:

Blocking these standards for just *one additional year* would result in:

- up to 25,300 lives lost due to smog, soot, and toxic air pollution;
- more than 11,000 heart attacks;
- more than 120,000 asthma attacks;
- over 12,200 more hospital and emergency room visits; and
- many hundreds of thousands more days of missed work or school.



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The bill’s lengthier *minimum* periods of delay (15 & 19 months) would result in **up to 33,450 premature deaths**. The real toll likely will be much higher since the legislation allows indefinite delays in these vital public health safeguards.

2) Red Tape Delays

The bill also establishes a new requirement that a panel of cabinet members review all standards issued by EPA and issue a report. Both EPA and OMB already perform this function, making the cabinet nothing more than a layer of bureaucratic red tape designed to tie the hands of EPA’s health and scientific professionals from doing their job to protect public health.

The bill calls for this report by August 1, 2012, but the red tape and sheer volume of complex directives makes it highly unrealistic this date will be met; there is no penalty for missing this deadline.

The bill only allows the committee to consider costs when conducting this review, thereby ignoring the enormous health benefits of EPA’s standards. Denying Americans the benefits of lives saved, avoided sick days, and reduced health care costs will hurt both families’ checkbooks and their health.

We urge you to vote “NO” on H.R. 2401 so that all Americans can breathe easier.