



Public Health Air Quality Act

Senator Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Endorsed by: American Lung Association, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Respiratory Health Association, RISE St. James Louisiana, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, Moms Clean Air Force, Earthjustice Action, EDF Action, Sierra Club, California Communities Against Toxics, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, Environmental Law and Policy Center, GreenLatinos, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.), Hoosier Environmental Council, RiSE4EJ, Environmental Integrity Project, Concerned Citizens of St. John, Union of Concerned Scientists, Natural Resources Defense Council, Clean Air Task Force, Rio Grande International Study Center, League of Conservation Voters, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Air pollution is a Public Health Emergency

Air pollution threatens our communities with cancer, asthma, early mortality, and neurodevelopmental conditions that no one should face because of the air they breathe. Science shows children are more vulnerable to toxic chemical exposure. We need to take stock of the chemicals in our air and protect our communities and children.

Many communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately burdened by industrial and environmental pollutants. Cumulative exposures can result in higher rates of illness and premature death. Despite this knowledge, we have failed to adequately address the simple truth that unhealthy air is unjust. For years, communities across the country have called for practical solutions to ensure we have the information and tools to deliver clean air across our country.

To address these issues, Senators Blunt Rochester and Duckworth are reintroducing *The Public Health Air Quality Act*. This legislation will advance clean air and public health by expanding fenceline and ambient air monitoring and access to air quality information for communities affected by air pollution. It directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement up-to-date standards that better utilize data on hazardous air pollution to protect public health, including children's health, in local communities facing some of the most toxic air.

The Public Health Air Quality Act

- Requires EPA to implement fenceline monitoring to track toxic air pollutants linked to high local cancer risks and other acute and chronic health threats, including neurodevelopmental impacts in early life, based on the best available science, and proximity to places like schools where children and families spend time.
- Ensures that fenceline monitoring and continuous emissions monitoring are integrated as core components of national air standards for chemical, petrochemical, and other sources of toxic air pollution linked with some of the most serious illnesses and health concerns.
- Requires a rapid expansion of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) monitoring network through the addition of at least 180 new air quality monitoring stations, including stations in communities where this is most needed.

- Deploys at least 1,000 new air quality sensors in communities facing unhealthy air to boost and complement the NAAQS monitoring network and enhance communities' access to information.

For questions or to cosponsor, please contact Alexandra Gilliland in Sen. Blunt Rochester's office, Alexandra_Gilliland@bluntrochester.senate.gov .