

September XX, 2018

RE: Protect Public Health – Oppose S. 1857

Dear Senator:

We write to ask that you oppose Senate Bill 1857. This legislation would unnecessarily leave communities vulnerable to a host of toxic air pollutants by delaying already long-overdue updates to standards for certain wood-burning stoves and boilers.

Smoke from residential woodstoves and boilers contains a mix of pollutants that are extremely harmful to human health – including particulate matter (soot), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides, benzene and formaldehyde. These emissions are a significant source of air pollution, particularly in communities and regions where some households continue to rely on burning wood for home heating. Despite the availability of better, more efficient technologies, tens of millions of Americans are routinely exposed to dirty air resulting from outdated woodstove designs that could make them sick, give them cancer, or even prematurely kill them. The risks are even greater for vulnerable and already overburdened populations, such as children, pregnant women, outdoor workers, low-income families and communities of color. We believe we can and must do better to protect our families.

In 2015, as required by the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action to improve air quality and better protect public health by updating performance standards for new wood-burning stoves, boilers and furnaces. These standards had remained unchanged since 1988 and did not reflect the availability of improved technologies that reduce emissions and increase efficiency. These stronger standards apply only to newly manufactured heaters and do not affect indoor fireplaces, existing in-home wood-burning furnaces, outdoor fireplaces, barbeques, or pizza ovens. Despite the narrow focus, once implemented, the updated standards will reap significant emissions reductions, better guarding communities against dangerous air pollution and helping many counties comply with health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulates and ground-level ozone. EPA estimates that the updates will cost approximately \$46 million but will deliver \$3.4 to \$7.6 billion in public health benefits, meaning a net benefit of \$74 to \$165 for every dollar spent on compliance.

Senate Bill 1857 would needlessly delay compliance with these already long-overdue standards by an additional 3 years, until May 15, 2023. This extension is proposed despite affected industries having already been granted an unusually long phase-in window of 5 years. The updates were crafted transparently after significant input from the public and industry. In addition to the extended compliance window, EPA also included provisions to accommodate manufacturers, including a retailer sell-through provision and alternative compliance options. The agency also noted that nearly one-fifth of the boilers and heaters on the market already met the stronger standards. Accordingly, delaying compliance rewards bad actors at the

expense of those in the industry who have already made forward-looking investments to improve their products and better protect their consumers.

With so many communities still routinely exposed to unsafe air quality conditions, and with solutions at our fingertips, we cannot afford further foot-dragging or procrastination on these commonsense efforts. In order to prevent avoidable sickness and premature deaths, we urge you to support EPA's updated emission standards for woodstoves and reject this misguided and unnecessary delay bill.

Sincerely,