

STAPPA / ALAPCO

STATE AND TERRITORIAL  
AIR POLLUTION PROGRAM  
ADMINISTRATORS

ASSOCIATION OF  
LOCAL AIR POLLUTION  
CONTROL OFFICIALS

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### **New Report Details Devastating Impact of Administration's Proposed Budget Cuts on State and Local Clean Air Programs**

The 16-percent cut in FY 2007 federal funding for state and local air quality programs proposed by the President will stagger clean air programs across the nation and may even force some to shut their doors, according to state and local air quality officials.

In a new report by the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO), state and local clean air agencies detail their individual stories, articulating what a cut of this magnitude could entail. STAPPA and ALAPCO released the report today and transmitted it to Congress, with an appeal for FY 2007 funding at least equal to the amount appropriated in FY 2006.

The Administration's proposal to slash funding for state and local clean air programs by \$35.1 million comes at a time when these already-underfunded programs – which have seen a practical decrease in their budgets of 25 percent over the past decade – face increasing responsibilities to protect public health and air quality.

“It is alarming to realize how these cuts will affect so many of these agencies,” noted ALAPCO President John Paul, Supervisor of the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency in Dayton, Ohio. “Many of them have reported that they will be forced to lay off staff, shut down air quality monitors and cut out enforcement activities. Several even indicated that they may have to consider returning elements of their programs to EPA to manage and, most disheartening of all, close their doors completely. This is a time when state and local agencies need significant grant increases, not devastating cuts.”

“Right now, we are facing additional responsibilities related to new requirements for ozone and fine particulate matter. These are pollutants that result in adverse health effects and even premature death,” said STAPPA President Eddie Terrill, Director of the Oklahoma Air Quality Division. “We simply cannot afford to decrease our vigilance, yet these funding cuts will force many of us to diminish our efforts. It is especially troubling

since states conduct most of the permitting, enforcement, inspections, monitoring and data collection on EPA's behalf."

STAPPA and ALAPCO are recommending that state and local air grants in FY 2007 be increased by at least \$35.1 million above the President's request, to equal the FY 2006 appropriation of \$220.3 million. Additionally, the associations are urging that the funds for the fine particulate matter monitoring program continue to be granted under the authority of Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, rather than Section 105, since the former does not require already-strapped state and local agencies to provide a 40-percent match of funds.

STAPPA and ALAPCO are the two national associations of air pollution control agencies in 54 states and territories and more than 165 major metropolitan areas across the country. For more information on the associations, please visit the associations' website at [www.4cleanair.org](http://www.4cleanair.org).

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