

STAPPA / ALAPCO

STATE AND TERRITORIAL
AIR POLLUTION PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATORS

ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL OFFICIALS

March 13, 2006

S. WILLIAM BECKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Senate Appropriations Committee Member:

The President's Budget for FY 2007 proposes cutting funding for state and local air quality grants by \$35.1 million, from \$220.3 million to \$185.2 million. We request that these funds be restored and state and local air grants receive at least the amount appropriated in FY 2006, which is \$35.1 million above the President's request for FY 2007. Additionally, the fine particulate matter monitoring grant program should remain under the authority of Section 103, rather than shifting it to Section 105, as the President's budget recommends. Enclosed is a one-page fact sheet providing additional information about the proposed budget and our concerns.

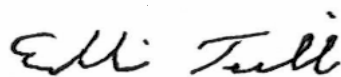
In order to illustrate the adverse impacts of such a budget cut, the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO) collected from state and local air agencies around the country information and examples of how such a reduction would adversely affect each of their programs and air quality. As you can see from the state-by-state information in this document, a \$35-million reduction in the state and local air grants program would have very devastating impacts on these agencies and on their efforts to protect public health and the environment.

Air pollution remains a significant problem in our country. Over 150 million people live in areas that violate new, health-based air quality standards for smog and small airborne particles, causing serious health and welfare effects, including premature mortality. Air toxics are known sources of cancer and other health effects.

If state and local air agencies are to continue to improve and maintain healthful air quality, we urge Congress to restore the \$35.1-million that the Administration has proposed cutting from state and local air grants and recommend that funding for the fine particulate monitoring network continue to be granted under the authority of Section 103, rather than Section 105, of the Clean Air Act.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Eddie Terrill
President of STAPPA



John A. Paul
President of ALAPCO