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**American Lung Association and Union of Concerned Scientists Join
Effort to Restore Clean Air
and Fight Wildfires in California**

Momentum Grows Behind Clean Cars & Clean Air Act for 2022 Ballot

San Francisco, CA – Today, the Clean Air California coalition announced two more major endorsements by leading public health and science advocacy organizations. The American Lung Association and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) are the latest heavy-hitters to join a growing roster of key environmental, public health, business, labor, and nonprofit groups behind a ballot initiative to restore California’s clean air and reduce the impact of catastrophic wildfires.

The diverse coalition is advancing a November 2022 ballot measure to curb California’s two main sources of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions: transportation and wildfires. The Clean Cars & Clean Air Act provides long-term funding for wildfire prevention and suppression as well as rebates to bring electric vehicles and their charging stations within reach for millions more Californians.

“Clean Air CA welcomes the Union of Concerned Scientists and the American Lung Association to this alliance dedicated to ensuring California’s future as a healthy, habitable home for generations to come,” the coalition said in a statement. “The momentum at which support for this initiative is increasing across such a wide variety of sectors illustrates not only the universal impact of air pollution, but the widespread demand for transformative solutions to it.”

Earlier this month, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Coalition for Clean Air, and Public Health Advocates signed on to the coalition, which also includes California Environmental Voters (EnviroVoters), the State Association of Electrical Workers – IBEW, CAL FIRE Local 2881, Lyft, and other climate leaders.

“In California, air pollution poses a risk to the health of over 38 million residents—nearly everybody. Unhealthy air contributes to a wide range of health emergencies, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, and leads to thousands of premature deaths each year in California,” said Will Barrett, National Senior Director of Clean Air Advocacy with the American Lung Association. “Californians have the power to vote for clean air, and we need to use it.”

“The climate crisis requires a fast transition to electric vehicles,” said Jason Barbose, Acting Western States Director for the Union of Concerned Scientists. “To succeed in moving away from polluting cars and trucks, we need to make investments that help everyone, from lower-income households to trucking fleets, make the switch to electric vehicles while also expanding the availability of charging stations throughout California. The Clean Cars and Clean Air Act provides the scale of funding California needs to get the job done and prioritizes the communities that need it most. If passed, this measure will be a game-changer in the state’s efforts to help more Californians drive electric.”

The initiative increases the state personal income tax rate by 1.75% on income over \$2 million—a progressive revenue source that ensures the costs will be borne only by those most able to afford them and not passed on to low- and middle-income California families.

For more information about Clean Air California, write to info@cleanairca.org

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Clean Air California is a growing coalition of environmental and public health groups, firefighters, labor and businesses committed to achieving clean air in California. The group includes California Environmental Voters, the State Association of Electrical Workers - IBEW, Lyft, CAL FIRE Local 2881, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Coalition for Clean Air, and Public Health Advocates.