



# LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **LULAC Supports STPP Proposals to Reduce Transportation-Related Air Pollution** *Poor Air Quality Disproportionately Affects Latinos*

*Washington, DC* – The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is highly disturbed that out of 38.8 million Latinos, 25 million or nearly 66 percent of Hispanics are living in areas that do not meet basic air quality health standards.

“We are tremendously concerned that Latinos are more likely to be exposed to harmful air pollutants – the byproduct of industry, fuel combustion and home heating habits. Close to sixty-six percent of Latinos live in these harmful conditions and there is increasing evidence linking air pollution with public health problems like asthma, heart disease and cancer,” said Hector Flores, LULAC National President. “Our nation’s clean air laws need to be strengthened, not weakened. Transportation plays a critical role in the nation’s air pollution problems and our families are among those most affected because they tend to live in less-desirable communities oftentimes adjacent to major roadways.”

The *Clearing the Air* report highlights public health issues related to the failure of meeting air quality standards and health hazards affecting Latino communities nationwide and on the island of Puerto Rico. With public health problems and health costs on the rise, LULAC concludes that it is more important than ever before to support measures to reduce air pollution and other environmental risks for the benefit of all Latinos in the United States and its territories.

LULAC strongly supports the recommendations made by STPP to help improve the air quality for the nation. “By strengthening the role of regional planning agencies to reduce transportation-related air pollution and ensuring that air quality funding is made available through the federal transportation law we reduce congestion and air pollution – and, as a result, we ensure that Latino families will be protected from further air quality degradation,” said LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation, Gabriela D. Lemus, Ph.D.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

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