



November 1, 2018

GOVERNORS COMMIT TO PROTECT CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

We, the undersigned states, affirm our commitment to adopt the strong environmental standards of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act to protect human health and the environment in our states, regardless of changes at the federal level that might weaken protections of air and water quality. We commit to utilizing sound, peer-reviewed environmental science, and, as science advances beyond its current state, we commit to aligning state standards with the best available science.

For over a generation, Americans have enjoyed the protection of these signature environmental laws. Through science and research, we have learned more about how the health of the environment affects the health of people, particularly children and the elderly. Since the 1970s, clean air and clean water standards have advanced to reflect the science and protect people. For the first time in history, these standards are being rolled back at the federal level, and we now face threats to the basic underpinnings of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act themselves.

The federal Clean Air and Water Acts currently work under a model of "cooperative federalism" wherein the states can adopt standards that are more protective than federal standards. Federal and state courts have upheld state standards where they are more protective than federal regulations.

Each of our states has a unique administrative and regulatory structure established to protect clean air and clean water, but we share a commitment to science-based standards that protect human health and the environment. As governors, we pledge to be diligent environmental stewards of our natural resources to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy the bounty of clean air, clean water and the highest quality of life.

Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon

Governor John Hickenlooper
State of Colorado

Governor David Ige
State of Hawaii

Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
State of California