

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF PICKENS PLAN

December 9, 2008, NEW YORK - The American Lung Association, a leader in the fight for cleaner air for decades, announced its support of the Pickens Plan at a press conference today with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and T. Boone Pickens, the legendary American business leader and philanthropist. Developed by Mr. Pickens, the Pickens Plan focuses on reducing America's dependence on foreign oil by investing in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, and using America's vast resources of clean natural gas for fleet transportation.

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States. The American Lung Association is one of the foremost defenders of the Clean Air Act. The organization publishes the State of the Air Report each year, which ranks the nation's most polluted cities, and is a strategic leader on the impact of air quality on health.

"Every person is dependent upon clean air for health and vitality. Yet millions of Americans are consistently exposed to pollution at levels that are scientifically proven to be harmful. The American Lung Association applauds Mr. Pickens' goal of harnessing cleaner energy alternatives because cleaner energy will make our air healthier to breathe," said Steve Nolan, Chairman of the American Lung Association. "The American Lung Association is enthusiastic about engaging in this effort to build further support for the Pickens Plan. Cleaner energy, such as the wind and solar power that the Pickens Plan recommends, is a solution that we support."

Cars, trucks, heavy equipment, factories, power plants and other sources burn coal and oil and bombard the air with smog, soot, carcinogens, toxic chemicals and metals. Breathing dirty air causes hospitalizations, asthma attacks, heart attacks and lung cancer, as well as shortening the lives of tens of thousands of people in this country every year. It can even harm healthy, active adults. Children, seniors, and people with lung disease, heart disease or diabetes face an even greater threat from unhealthy air.

"The American Lung Association tells me that well over 125 million people live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollution," explained Pickens. "Cleaner air is critical to the health and well-being of this country and I am thankful to have the support of this hundred year old organization," said Pickens. "I set out with one goal when I launched the Pickens Plan: to reduce our dependency on foreign oil by at least 30 percent over the next decade. The Pickens Plan will work. It will not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil using renewable energy resources like wind and solar and natural gas as a transportation fuel, but it will also enrich America by providing domestic jobs, creating a greener environment to live in, and importantly giving us cleaner air to breathe," he continued.

The American Lung Association also applauds Mayor Bloomberg's goal for New York City to have the cleanest air of any major city in the nation. The American Lung Association in New York has worked with Mayor Bloomberg to develop and implement PlaNYC, the city's sustainability agenda and appreciates his continued commitment to cleaner air. The reduction of emissions from public and private transit fleets, as well as from the buildings in which people live and work everyday should serve as a blueprint for cities around the world.

"Stopping the pollution that chokes our children's lungs, slowing the climate change that threatens their world, and investing in the kind of renewable energy that can be produced right here in America will ensure a greener, greater, healthier future for New York City," said Mayor Bloomberg. "Hosting this event with the American Lung Association gives us the perfect opportunity to congratulate Boone on the growing support for his plan, and also to show him how New York City is putting some of its key concepts into action. New York has long been recognized as a national leader in the acquisition of low-emission vehicles, and our fleets make use of compressed natural gas, hybrid and solar polar and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel to keep the City running."

In announcing their support for the Pickens Plan, the American Lung Association joins a growing list of individuals, non-profit organizations and other third party groups who have embraced the Pickens Plan.

About the American Lung Association

Now in its second century, the American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives, improve lung health and prevent lung disease. With your generous support, the American Lung Association is "Fighting for Air" through research, education and advocacy. For more information about the American Lung Association, a Charity Navigator Four Star Charity and holder of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Guide Seal, or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872) or visit www.lungusa.org.

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The Pickens Pledge reads:

We will no longer stand by and watch as America's national security and economy become more dependent on the unstable foreign nations that we rely on for nearly 70% of the oil we use each day.

We spend nearly \$700 billion every year buying foreign oil, which represents the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of mankind.

The new President and the 111th Congress need to enact an energy plan that reduces our foreign oil dependence by at least 30% within ten years.

This plan must include proven American technology and resources; the development of new energy sources; and the expansion and modernization of the national electrical grid to transport renewable energy to homes and businesses.

Delaying any further means tacit support for continuing America's addiction to foreign oil.

I join with T. Boone Pickens and his army of supporters in calling for an Energy Independence Plan to be enacted within the first 100 days of the new administration.

For more information on Pickens Plan, visit www.pickensplan.com.

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Contact: Carrie Martin
American Lung Association
202-420-1141
cmartin@lungusa.org

Melissa McKay
212-446-1892
press@pickensplan.com

Jay Rosser
BP Capital
214-265-4165
Jay@bpcap.net

Jason Post
Mayor Bloomberg's Press Office
212-788-2958
jpost@cityhall.nyc.gov