

American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists / Indoor Environments Association * American Lung Association * American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative * Children's Environmental Health Network * Citizens for Radioactive Radon Risk Reduction * Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors * Free ME from Lung Cancer * GO2 for Lung Cancer * Live Lung * Lung Cancer Connection * Lung Cancer Research Foundation * Lungevity Foundation * National Center for Healthy Housing * National Environmental Health Association * National Tribal Air Association* Protect PT (Penn-Trafford) * Upstage Lung Cancer

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representatives
Chair, Interior-Environment Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Simpson,

Our organizations have joined together today to request that you oppose the elimination of the Radon Program and the State Indoor Radon Grant program as proposed by the President's proposed budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. To help save lives and protect the health of all Americans, we request that you maintain full funding for these programs in the appropriations bill.

Please support the continuation of EPA's Radon Program and the State Indoor Radon Grant program, and support full funding for these programs:

Program Name	Budget Section	FY24 Actual	FY25 Estimated	FY26 No less than
Radon Program	Science and Technology	\$169,000	\$22,000	\$175,000
Radon Program	Env. Program/Management	\$2,627,000	\$3,123,000	\$3,200,000
State Indoor Radon Grant	State and Tribal Assistance	\$10,450,000	\$9,118,000	\$9,500,000

Radon Is the Second Leading Cause of Lung Cancer

As you may know, radon gas is a *radioactive toxin* that kills 21,000 people in the U.S. each year-- 55 Americans each day. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, a disease that kills more men and women than any other cancer, including breast and prostate. Radon is invisible, and present in more and more homes across the nation.

In 1988, President Reagan signed the Indoor Radon Abatement Act, which directed the EPA to reduce radon levels so "that the air within buildings in the United States should be as free of radon as the ambient air outside of buildings." Congress had passed that law in recognition of this serious health threat. EPA's radon programs serve as the federal government's primary line of defense for U.S. families against exposure to this pervasive carcinogen in fulfillment of this statutory duty. Section III of the Toxic Substances Control Act required EPA leadership on grants to states, proficiency, training, technical assistance, protocols/standards, and science.

EPA's Radon Program is a critical force in equipping the radon industry and public health programs with the technical and information tools they need to reduce radon exposure in homes, schools, and other buildings. EPA's Radon Program delivers radon standards and policies, including a radon reference, that ensure that all concerned with radon risk reduction are working according to proven evidence-based practices and policies. Fewer than half of all states license or in any way oversee the performance of radon services, and all but a few states rely heavily on the public-private partnership

that EPA has forged with private companies and voluntary proficiency programs. The loss of the Radon Program would wipe out recent progress and reset the clock to before 1988.

EPA's State and Tribes Indoor Radon Grants enable state health departments, tribes, and others to implement radon programs best suited to their respective communities. These programs' radon risk reduction efforts are significant. Forty-five State radon programs and up to twelve tribal programs have relied on and continue to rely on SIRG to support radon awareness and education of our citizens. Many programs provide free or low-cost test kits for citizens in immediate need who cannot afford to test. Congressional direction in prior appropriations report language reinforced the essential role of these programs in reducing exposure in schools reaching key health providers and building community stakeholders with well-targeted information about reducing exposure risk. These approaches deserve more time to reach peak effectiveness. Contrary to the implication in the narrative in the EPA's proposed budget, these radon programs have much work to do and no alternative source of support for their work. Without federal grants, these programs will disappear, even as the housing stock continues to grow, and more homes are added without radon-reducing features.

These are not responsibilities that EPA can, or should, hand off to the states. States provide match funds but lack enough funding to conduct radon risk reduction alone.

The combined effect of eliminating these programs would subject the American public to much harm, including a lack of public information and resources; increased exposure to a radioactive gas; and increased exposure for consumers to fraudulent practices due to no federal agency providing objective leadership on radioactive measurement devices and forms of remediation for radon. As a result, more people will die from lung cancer caused by radon.

Please support full funding for the Radon Program and the State and Tribes Indoor Radon Grant programs. Such action will affirm continued progress toward fulfilling the goal that indoor air should be as free of radon as outdoor air. Such action will help protect the lives and health of all Americans.

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