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**ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN SUES U.S. EPA OVER FAILURE TO ENFORCE CRITICAL LANDFILL METHANE REGULATION**

**Chicago** — Attorney General Lisa Madigan, along with other attorneys general and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), today filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over its failure to implement and enforce a critical landfill methane regulation.

The regulation at issue – known formally as the 2016 Emission Guidelines and Compliance Times for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills – reduces landfill emissions of volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, carbon dioxide and methane. It went into effect October 28, 2016, but the EPA has not implemented or enforced it. Instead, with no legal basis for delaying implementation and enforcement of the regulation, the EPA stated that it intends to complete a reconsideration of the regulation by spring 2020, which is a violation of the Clean Air Act.

“The U.S. EPA’s job is to protect Americans from air pollution that endangers our public health and our environment, and regulating landfill emissions is critical to that work,” Madigan said. “Instead, U.S. EPA has failed us and the environment by refusing to enforce the environmental laws.”

Landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S., accounting for approximately 18.2 percent of national emissions in 2015. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate all categories of stationary sources, such as landfills, that cause or contribute significantly to air pollution that may endanger public health or welfare. The regulation at issue would lead to numerous public health and environmental benefits, including:

- Preventing 8.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per year, which translates to:
  - 1.8 million passenger vehicles driven for one year or
  - 1.1 million homes’ electricity use for one year.
- Protecting against pollutants that cause asthma and other respiratory diseases, especially among the country’s most vulnerable populations – its youngest and oldest residents.
- Protecting against cancer-causing hazardous air pollutants.

Joining Madigan in filing today’s lawsuit are the attorneys general of California, Maryland, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. The California Air Resources Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are also a part of the coalition.

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