



**Policy Statement of the National Environmental Health Association
Regarding cutbacks in the environmental health workforce**

For the health, well being and welfare of our communities throughout the nation, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) strongly urges that environmental health programs be maintained at the staffing and funding levels necessary in order for them to continue to be effective.

Environmental health programs serve to prevent illness, injury and even death. NEHA asserts that such programs result in an overall net economic gain for the community based on disease prevention, extended lives, enhanced productivity and less time lost from work. These programs improve the overall quality of life in communities throughout the nation because they materially reduce environmental threats to health.

In addition, these very programs operate to protect communities against emergency situations (such as terrorism events, acts of nature, pandemics, etc.). If this important infrastructure was compromised due to reductions in this workforce, communities become more vulnerable to the dangers and consequences of emergency situations.

Adopted April 2009 by the NEHA Board of Directors