

Sample

Letter

to Government Official

[Date]

[The Honorable and full name of official]
[Address of official]

Dear [Title (e.g., Senator, Mayor, Governor) and last name]:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as National Radon Action Month. **Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer** among non-smokers, responsible for more than **20,000 deaths annually** in the United States alone. *[If available, add local facts about radon].* In support of this effort, I am writing to ask you to help us raise awareness about radon risk in our state this January, which will help save lives throughout the year.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water that can accumulate to dangerous levels inside homes, schools, and other buildings. It cannot be seen, and has no odor; the only way a family can know if their house has a radon problem is if they test for it. The good news is that radon problems can be fixed. Getting the word out to your constituents about the importance of testing for radon and fixing a radon problem can **save lives** in our state/communities.

Here are four important **actions you can take** to get the word out about radon and save lives in our community:

- ▶ **Proclaim January as National Radon Action Month** in our state/community and hold a proclamation signing ceremony with key health officials, community activists, and the press (see sample proclamation page XX);
- ▶ **Use your Web site** to let your constituents know January is National Radon Action Month. Provide a link to EPA's radon page and use the National Radon Action Month web banners available online at www.epa.gov/radon, feature National Radon Action Month activities planned in our state, and highlight our state's winner of the National Safety Council's National Radon Poster Contest (visit www.nsc.org/resources/issues/radon/index.aspx);
- ▶ **Conduct an interview with local media** – in addition to traditional radio, television, and print media, consider podcasts or other emerging media;
- ▶ **Attend a local radon event** – See www.epa.gov/radon/nram/activities.html to find events in our area to promote radon awareness in our state/community.

With your leadership we can prevent lung cancer deaths in our community by educating the public about the danger of radon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Organization]
[Phone Number/E-mail Address]