FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2022

ASPPH Statement on West Virginia v. EPA Ruling

July 1, 2022 – Yesterday’s SCOTUS 6-3 ruling in the West Virginia v. EPA case, significantly limiting the ability of the EPA to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, is deeply concerning to ASPPH. This decision will have a devastating impact on the nation’s ability to curb climate change and to protect the health and wellbeing of its population. It will also hamper the United States’ ability to meet its obligations to global efforts in relation to climate change, such as the Paris Agreement.

4.2 million people worldwide die annually from air pollution, and 99% of the global population breathes air that exceeds WHO guideline limits and contains high levels of pollutants. In the United States, 100,000 deaths each year are attributable to human-caused emissions, and approximately half of those deaths are due to fossil fuel combustion.

Without the ability to regulate power plants, EPA loses its authority to develop broad regulations that will ensure a healthier environment and cleaner air. ASPPH urges the EPA to use what limited authority it still possesses to persist in reducing the negative impact these power plants have on the environment and health.

ASPPH will continue to work tirelessly to mitigate the impact of climate change including through the ASPPH Climate Change and Health framework, soon to be released, to protect the lives of all populations. We strongly urge further action by the Congress to address this crisis.

1 World Health Organization. Air Pollution. Accessed July 1, 2022 at WHO.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab_1

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH’s mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

For more information: Tim Leshan; tleshan@aspph.org; 202-296-1099, ext. 132.