

From: [Ana Solano](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Docket R 2024-017 PC
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My name is Ana Solano. I live in Illinois, and have been a resident of Little Village for 26 years. I regularly see and experience the impacts that breathing in diesel pollution has on my community. I am submitting a comment to the Pollution Control Board in response to the comments that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency submitted.

When I think about the meaning of Environmental Protection, I think about the duty of keeping our environment safe. In many ways public health IS environmental justice and when an agency whose sole duty is to protect our environment, it feels like we have set our state decades backwards by refusing to adopt the clean vehicle standards! Achieving environmental justice is important to me because I care about my community's health and wellbeing!

When I attended the Pollution Control Board hearing back in December- I saw dozens of Illinois residents fill up the room with their concerns. It was residents from ALL walks of life: healthcare professionals, teachers, sport coaches, scientists, community members and what they all had in common was a genuine concern about public health. In Illinois we have one of the WORST air quality in the whole country! By ignoring community voices, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is sending a message that they do not care about the overwhelming amount of respiratory illnesses that residents are developing, that they do not care about the thousands of premature deaths caused by pollution. The IEPA's messaging and priorities were very loud and clear because their comments do not mention public health or environmental factors at all- which was extremely disheartening.

I urge the Pollution Control board to do the right thing and adopt the clean vehicle standards! This is history in the making!