

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
March 11, 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 ) R24-17  
PROPOSED CLEAN CAR AND ) (Rulemaking - Air)  
TRUCK STANDARDS: PROPOSED )  
35 ILL. ADM. CODE 242 )

Hearing before the Illinois Pollution Control Board  
Transcript of Proceedings

March 11, 2025

Reporter: Jude Arndt, CSR, CCR, RPR  
CCR NO. 084-004847  
CSR NO. 1450

1                   The aforementioned proceedings were held  
2                   on March 11, 2025, at Illinois Pollution Control Board,  
3                   Springfield Office, 2520 West Iles Avenue, Springfield,  
4                   Illinois, before Jude Arndt, a certified shorthand  
5                   reporter and certified court reporter.

6                   PRESENT:

7                   ATTENDING BOARD MEMBERS:

8                   Barbara Flynn Currie, Chair  
9                   Jennifer Van Wie  
10                  Michael Mankowski  
11                  Michelle Gibson  
12                  Angela Tin

13                  BOARD STAFF:

14                  Carlie Leoni, Hearing Officer  
15                  Vanessa Horton, Hearing Officer  
16                  Dr. Anand Rao  
17                  Essence Brown  
18                  Marie Tipsord  
19                  Anupama Paruchuri  
20                  Tim Fox  
21                  Chloe Salk

22                  PROPONENTS - ATTORNEYS:

23                  James Dennison  
24                  Robert Weinstock  
                  Albert Ettinger  
                  Nathaniel Shoaff  
                  Chase Deatrick

                  PARTICIPANTS - ATTORNEYS:

                  Gina Roccaforte  
                  Dana Vetterhoffer  
                  Jason James  
                  Caitlin Kelly  
                  Melissa Brown  
                  Alec Messina  
                  Kara Principe  
                  Michael McNally  
                  Melissa Binetti

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(Exhibits are attached.)

1 [Mary Tyler excused.]

2 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Thank  
3 you.

4 At this point, we have concluded the  
5 testimony that has been pre-filed.

6 But for the record, is there anyone  
7 present here or in Chicago today who did not  
8 pre-filed testimony for this hearing but who  
9 does wish to offer testimony today?

10 Okay. Hearing none, then we can  
11 conclude the witness testimony for this  
12 hearing, and that is all we have today before  
13 the online public comment portion.

14 So today at 4:00 PM, we will resume  
15 this hearing with the online public comment  
16 portion. That will be conducted over Webex,  
17 and the link for that Webex can be found in  
18 the Board's January 16th, 2025, hearing  
19 officer order, which is publicly available on  
20 the Board's website, on the Clerk's Office  
21 On-Line.

22 Please note that while we have closed  
23 signup for offering online public comments, at  
24 that time, anyone may still view the Webex

1 using the link in that January 16th hearing  
2 officer order.

3 This room will remain open in  
4 Springfield, and also the room in Bilandic  
5 will remain open for the online public comment  
6 portion, but we ask that anyone viewing on  
7 their personal laptops, in here or in Chicago,  
8 please keep the sound off and use the sound  
9 that is available on the Board's  
10 videoconferencing equipment.

11 Do we have any questions about today's  
12 online public comment portion?

13 No? Okay. Then that concludes the  
14 testimony portion of the hearing. And now  
15 let's go off the record to discuss the  
16 post-hearing briefing schedule. Thank you,  
17 everyone.

18 [Discussion off the record.]

19 THE REPORTER: Back on.

20 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: So for  
21 the record, participants and the Board have  
22 discussed the post-hearing public comments  
23 schedule for the proceeding.

24 We decided that the deadline for the

1 post-hearing public comment will be Monday,  
2 April 28th. Any members of the public may  
3 submit public comments at that time, but that  
4 will be the close of the open public comment  
5 period.

6 Two weeks from that date, responsive  
7 comments will be due, so that will be Monday,  
8 May 12th. That is the deadline for responsive  
9 comments to the post-hearing public comments.

10 All right? Thank you all again. This  
11 concludes our hearing today.

12 [10:19 a.m.]

13 [A recess was taken.]

14 [3:59 p.m.]

15 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Good  
16 afternoon, everyone, and welcome to this  
17 public comment portion of the Illinois  
18 Pollution Control Board's rulemaking hearing,  
19 R24-17, Proposed Clean Car and Truck  
20 Standards, Proposed 35 Illinois Administrative  
21 Code Section -- Part 242.

22 My name is Carlie Leoni. I am one of  
23 the hearing officers in this matter. And with  
24 me today is my co-hearing officer Vanessa

1 Horton, who will be leading us through the  
2 public comment portion.

3 We already have everyone pre-signed up  
4 to give their public comments, so we will go  
5 in the order that was listed in the hearing  
6 officer order of March 5th.

7 Vanessa will be reading that to us --  
8 to you all as we proceed, and please remember  
9 that public comments are limited to three  
10 minutes per comment.

11 And also, please keep yourselves muted  
12 when you are not giving your comment, and  
13 unmute yourselves when you would like to  
14 speak.

15 And with that, I will turn it over to  
16 Vanessa.

17 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Hi,  
18 everyone. We got a little --

19 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: You know  
20 what, we have lag. We'll keep it on. Okay.

21 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: All  
22 right. Hi, everyone. This is Vanessa Horton.  
23 I'm one of the hearing officers for this  
24 rulemaking. We'll begin right away.

1           Our first commenter is Christian  
2 Robinson. If you could unmute yourself, you  
3 have three minutes for your public comment.

4           CHRISTIAN ROBINSON: Excellent.  
5 Thank you. Can you hear me?

6           HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

7           CHRISTIAN ROBINSON: Excellent.  
8 Well, I want to thank the members of the Board  
9 for the opportunity to testify today and  
10 provide public comment.

11           My name is Christian Robinson. I'm the  
12 senior director of state government affairs  
13 for the Specialty Equipment Market  
14 Association, or SEMA.

15           SEMA represents 222 member businesses  
16 in Illinois, 95 percent of which are small  
17 businesses, and over 7,000 businesses  
18 nationwide that manufacture, distribute, and  
19 sell parts and accessories that enhance the  
20 performance, efficiency, and style of motor  
21 vehicles.

22           Our industry supports over 62,000 jobs  
23 in Illinois, contributing over \$5 billion in  
24 wages, and generating over \$2 billion in taxes



1 for the state.

2 I'm here today to respectfully oppose  
3 the adoption of California's Advanced Clean  
4 Cars 2 regulations, which would mandate that  
5 all new vehicles sold in the state be  
6 zero-emissions by 2035.

7 SEMA supports innovation, including EVs  
8 and other zero-emission technologies, but a  
9 one-size-fits-all mandate like ACC2 is the  
10 wrong approach.

11 Illinois must remain in control of its  
12 own automotive and economic policies rather  
13 than ceding authority to California regulators  
14 who do not represent the needs of Illinois  
15 businesses or consumers.

16 The impact of ACC2 would be devastating  
17 for small businesses in the specialty  
18 automotive market. One third of consumer  
19 spending on performance and accessories  
20 products goes towards upgrading and making  
21 more efficient internal combustion engines and  
22 drivetrains, representing a \$112 billion  
23 economic impact nationwide, a large share of  
24 which is generated by Illinois's thriving

1 automotive after-market industry.

2 Unlike large automotive manufacturers  
3 that receive billions of dollars in federal  
4 subsidies for EV development, small  
5 businesses -- and when I say 95 percent of our  
6 businesses are less -- or 95 percent are small  
7 businesses, that's less than 100 employees --  
8 they lack the resources to retool at this  
9 forced pace.

10 Illinois faces significant  
11 infrastructure challenges as well. The state  
12 does not yet have the charging network or grid  
13 capacity required to support an accelerated  
14 transition to electric vehicles.

15 Mandating EVs before the necessary  
16 support systems are in place will increase  
17 vehicle costs, reduce consumer choice, and  
18 disproportionately hurt working-class families  
19 who rely on affordable, reliable  
20 transportation.

21 Illinois has the opportunity to lead  
22 with innovative balanced policies that embrace  
23 all available technologies, whether it's EV,  
24 hydrogen combustion, biofuels, and cleaner

1 internal combustion engines.

2 We urge the Board to reject  
3 California's ACC2 regulations, and instead  
4 support Illinois-based solutions that work for  
5 all residents and industries.

6 I thank you for your time.

7 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thanks  
8 so much.

9 Next, we have Catherine Horine.

10 CATHERINE HORINE: Yes. Hi.

11 Members of the Board, my name is  
12 Catherine Horine, and I am a volunteer for the  
13 Respiratory Health Association of the Chicago.

14 I am here today to express my concern  
15 about the need for Illinois to adopt clean  
16 vehicle rules that would improve emission  
17 standards.

18 To be specific, I strongly support  
19 Illinois adopting the Advanced Clean Truck  
20 Act, Heavy-Duty Omnibus NOx, HDO, and the  
21 Advanced Clean Cars ACC2 rules.

22 This is a very important issue for me,  
23 as I am a lung transplant recipient, and clean  
24 air is so very important to me, as the air I

1 breathe touches my lungs, and the pollution  
2 could cause my transplant to reject. So this  
3 is life-and-death for me.

4 When I have to drive in and around my  
5 community to go to doctor appointments or run  
6 errands, the air pollution impacts me  
7 directly. Vehicle emissions all come into my  
8 ca, and force me to reach for a mask to  
9 protect me while driving.

10 Auto and truck emissions are  
11 responsible for many types of air pollution,  
12 and all forms of air pollution are concerning,  
13 but vehicle emissions are particularly harmful  
14 for the health of communities, and impacts me  
15 directly, as I have stated.

16 Because I have to be so careful about  
17 breathing outside air, I have signed up to  
18 receive EPA notifications when the air quality  
19 is in the danger zone. When this is the case,  
20 my transplant team has instructed me to stay  
21 indoors as much as possible, and if going out,  
22 I am instructed to wear a mask.

23 I spent most of last summer indoors, as  
24 my phone was blowing up with alerts about the

1 poor air quality as a result of vehicle  
2 emissions. On the rare occasions I have to go  
3 out, I often need to resort to using my rescue  
4 inhaler. This is no way to live.

5 But it's not only people like me.  
6 Recent data suggests some of Illinois's most  
7 populous communities are disproportionately  
8 harmed by vehicle pollution. People with  
9 asthma, heart disease, respiratory infections,  
10 and other health-related issues.

11 I am here today asking that Illinois  
12 adopt better vehicle standards, like the  
13 Advanced Clean Car 2, Advanced Clean Truck  
14 Act, and Heavy-Duty Omnibus Nitrogen Oxide  
15 rules in California.

16 This would go a long way toward making  
17 the air we breathe cleaner, and safer for  
18 everyone in Illinois, and would allow me to  
19 have -- to spend more time outside enjoying  
20 fresh, clean air and not have to worry about  
21 how vehicle emissions will impact my lung  
22 health.

23 I thank you for your time.

24 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank

1     you so much.

2             Next is Susan Mudd.

3             So if someone is not on the call, maybe  
4     they are having technical difficulties, I'll  
5     circle back to anyone that I call that doesn't  
6     answer. I believe Ms. Mudd gave in-person  
7     public comment, but I'll circle back at the  
8     end.

9             Next is Robert Needleman.

10            ROBERT NEEDLEMAN: Hey. Thank  
11     you, Carlie and Vanessa, for the opportunity.

12            My name is Robert Needleman. I'm an  
13     emergency physician in Chicago, and also  
14     president of the Illinois Clinicians For  
15     Climate Action.

16            I'm here to advocate for my patients.  
17     It's simple enough. Some of the sickest  
18     people that come into my emergency department  
19     are from the west side and south side of  
20     Chicag, and are dealing with very horrible  
21     respiratory illness.

22            I have seen people require breathing  
23     tubes. I have people -- I have seen people's  
24     hearts stop because their asthma and lung

1 disease is so advanced and they can't get a  
2 good breath in. And as you look at the data  
3 and the science, it's pretty clear as to why.

4 Disease doesn't happen in a vacuum.  
5 Many of these patients are suffering from  
6 respiratory disease secondary to the  
7 environments they live in, and this includes  
8 the small particulate matter that is released  
9 by trucks.

10 And when looking at the literature  
11 about Illinois and Cook County, and seeing  
12 that we are, you know, leading the nation in  
13 small particulate matter from diesel trucks,  
14 it's embarrassing to me as somebody who lives  
15 in Cook County in Illinois, and something that  
16 motivates me, particularly when it comes to my  
17 community and the health of my patients.

18 So I'm here to advocate for pretty  
19 drastic and immediate change so that we can  
20 really make our fellow community members, my  
21 patients, you know, all Illinoisans healthier.

22 So thank you for your time.

23 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
24 you so much.

1           Next is Regina de Leon Gomez.

2                   REGINA DE LEON GOMEZ: My name is  
3 Regina de Leon Gomez, and though speaking  
4 today as an individual, I am a board-certified  
5 obstetrician-gynecologist, and an assistant  
6 professor at Rosalind Franklin University of  
7 Medicine and Science, Chicago Medical School.

8           My teaching includes the adverse health  
9 effects of exposure to pollution, and, and how  
10 environmental degradation impacts human  
11 health.

12           I trained at MedStar in Washington,  
13 D.C., then practiced as a public health  
14 service doctor at the Phoenix Indian Medical  
15 Center.

16           My last 20-plus years was spent as a  
17 frontline bedside OB/GYN hospitalist, taking  
18 care of the acute and emergent medical issues  
19 of pregnant people presenting to our community  
20 hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

21           I only mention my background to impress  
22 upon you that I have witnessed severe illness  
23 in pregnant people. On a daily basis, this  
24 looks like scared people needing interventions



1 for stroke range blood pressures, a risk  
2 factor for future cardiovascular disease, and  
3 newborns needing intensive care.

4 The increase in sick people was easily  
5 detectable over my 20 years on labor and  
6 delivery. Last year, Northwestern published  
7 findings showing the rise in severe maternal  
8 health issues affecting Illinois births from  
9 2016 to 2023, and this is exactly my  
10 experience: More chronic health conditions  
11 affecting all ages, including high blood  
12 pressure, mental health disorders, gestational  
13 diabetes, and obesity.

14 Illinois has too many babies born  
15 preterm, which requires a lot of health care  
16 in the short and long term. Illness is  
17 sometimes caused by bad luck, but more than  
18 likely a result of structural, institutional,  
19 social, and environmental injustices, or lack  
20 of basic necessities, including clean air.

21 For Illinois, we know that the state of  
22 our air is compromised. We know that diesel  
23 pollution from trucks and buses is the leading  
24 cause of that air pollution.

1           We know that diesel pollution puts  
2 pregnant people at risk for preterm birth and  
3 low birth weight newborns. We know the  
4 interplay of pollution and heat, and how this  
5 exacerbates heart disease, and heart disease  
6 is the leading cause of death in our state.

7           And additionally, for perspective,  
8 there were 128,493 births in 2022, so here  
9 lies the nexus that exists with vehicular  
10 pollutants, especially diesel toxins, and the  
11 state of perinatal and women's health in  
12 Illinois.

13           Zero-emission vehicles are  
14 technologically feasible and have already been  
15 adopted by major companies. Accelerating the  
16 transition to zero-emission transport is both  
17 economically reasonable, especially when we  
18 include the cost of sick mothers and babies.

19           I call upon you to act on your mission  
20 to restore, protect, enhance the quality of  
21 the air we breathe in Illinois, and  
22 respectfully remind you of the constitutional  
23 right we all have to a clean environment.

24           I support the adoption of the Advanced

1 Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus rules and  
2 clean vehicle standards.

3 Thank you for giving me this time.

4 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
5 you so much.

6 We'll now move on to the next group of  
7 commenters. Just a reminder for anybody who  
8 has just joined just recently, we are limited  
9 to three minutes each per comment.

10 So next up is Tracey McFadden.

11 TRACEY MCFADDEN: Hi. I'm Tracey  
12 McFadden, vice president of the Fox Valley  
13 Electric Auto Association. We are a chapter  
14 of the National Electric Auto Association,  
15 where I am a certified electric vehicle  
16 educator.

17 I give seminars and talks around the  
18 Chicagoland area on EV adoption. I'm a  
19 retired airline captain as well a veteran in  
20 the U.S. Air Force.

21 I am here to urge the Illinois  
22 Pollution Control Board to adopt ACT, ACC2,  
23 and NDO rules for Illinois, just as dozens of  
24 other states have done.

1           While many testimonies here today focus  
2   on the critical need to adopt these rules to  
3   fight climate change and improve public  
4   health, I'm going to focus on my area of  
5   expertise, which is the electrification of our  
6   transportation system.

7           The main point I want to emphasize is  
8   that electric cars and trucks are available  
9   now, and new ones are continually being  
10  developed, to rid our state of the toxins  
11  affecting our health and contributing to  
12  climate change.

13          Amazon, FedEx, UPS, PepsiCo, Walmart,  
14  Ryder Systems, are examples of major  
15  corporations that are already reaping the  
16  benefits of using electric trucks to transport  
17  goods.

18          Furthermore, factories in Illinois are  
19  already producing electric package delivery  
20  vehicles. And I point this out only to  
21  illustrate that this is not some  
22  pie-in-the-sky idea, but it's a reality right  
23  now, which only needs to be expanded with  
24  dates to ensure we move in the right

1 direction.

2 Transitioning from diesel to electric  
3 trucks has compelling benefits for the  
4 environment, for businesses, and for  
5 individuals.

6 In addition to zero emissions, reduced  
7 carbon pollution, and improved air quality,  
8 electric trucks also have lower operating  
9 costs, reduced maintenance expenditures, and  
10 abundant torque.

11 Fact MR, a provider of market research,  
12 states that, quote, the global electric truck  
13 market is predicted to expand at a compound  
14 annual growth rate of 14.5 percent, to reach a  
15 valuation of \$78 billion by the end of 2033.

16 Major electric semi truck and last-mile  
17 truck producers include Tesla, Volvo,  
18 Freightliner, Rivian, Ford, General Motors,  
19 Mercedes, Nissan, and BYD.

20 Furthermore, the Illinois supply chain  
21 is vast and quickly pivoting to meet the needs  
22 of the EV industry in Illinois. Rivian,  
23 Navistar, EVBox, and Komatsu are companies  
24 which are all located right here in Illinois.

1           In summarize, I strongly encourage the  
2   Illinois Pollution Control Board to adopt the  
3   standards of ACC, ACC2, and NDO, as other  
4   states around the nation are doing. We depend  
5   on you to protect us and make us safe.

6           Thank you.

7                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
8   you so much.

9           Next up is Sativa Volbrecht.

10          Sativa Volbrecht?

11          And just so everybody knows, if someone  
12   is not on when I call them, I'll circle back  
13   at the end and I'll call them again. Maybe  
14   they are having technical problems.

15          So we'll move on to the next, Kathleen  
16   McFadden.

17                   HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh.  
18   Sorry. Sorry. One moment, Kathleen. You are  
19   muted.

20          Okay, you are unmuted now. Please  
21   proceed, Kathleen.

22          No. Um --

23                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Oh, I'm  
24   so sorry. We're not hearing you, Ms.

1 McFadden.

2 No.

3 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Is your  
4 computer audio on? Is your computer muted?

5 We still can't hear you, Ms. McFadden.

6 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: You  
7 know, I'm just going to go to the next person,  
8 and then I'll circle back to you at 4:30, if  
9 that's okay?

10 Okay. Okay. No need to rush. Okay.

11 So I'll move on to Christopher Johnson.

12 CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON: Hi. Can  
13 you hear me?

14 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

15 CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON: Oh, great.

16 Thank you for the opportunity. My name  
17 is Chris Johnson, and I live in Highland Park.  
18 Thank you for the opportunity to address the  
19 Illinois Pollution Control Board.

20 And I'm speaking to urge you to adopt  
21 three clean vehicle standards for Illinois:  
22 The Advanced Clean Trucks Act, or ACT, the  
23 Heavy-Duty Omnibus Act, and the Advanced Clean  
24 Cars rule.

1           Together these rules will reduce  
2 pollutants in the air, bring health benefits  
3 to communities living in areas concentrated  
4 with diesel pollution, and bring more clean  
5 vehicles to the state.

6           In Illinois, the transportation sector  
7 accounts for 33 percent of carbon emissions in  
8 the State. Medium and heavy-duty vehicles are  
9 responsible for a disproportionate share of  
10 carbon emissions.

11           While these vehicles represent only  
12 seven percent of the on-road fleet in  
13 Illinois, they contribute 36 percent of  
14 greenhouse gases, 67 percent of nitrogen  
15 oxide, and 59 percent of particulates.

16           Low levels of nitrogen oxides in the  
17 air can cause or exacerbate asthma, as I know  
18 too well, as I suffer from asthma myself.  
19 They also irritate eyes, nose, throat, and  
20 lungs, possibly causing people to cough and  
21 experience shortness of breath, tiredness, and  
22 nausea. Exposure to low levels can also  
23 result in fluid buildup in the lungs one or  
24 two days after exposure.



1           Adopting the clean vehicles rules,  
2       which have been adopted in several states,  
3       will help greatly to help improve the health  
4       of Illinoisans.

5           The rules reduce the emissions of  
6       nitrogen oxide and greenhouse gases, and it is  
7       estimated that eliminating the pollution for  
8       medium and heavy-duty vehicles would prevent  
9       500 deaths and 600 fewer cases of asthma in  
10      the Chicago metro area.

11          As a longtime asthma sufferer myself, I  
12      can attest to the importance of reducing the  
13      pollution that causes a virulent disease.

14          Furthermore, by adopting these rules,  
15      the Illinois Pollution Control Board can  
16      increase zero-emission vehicles in Illinois,  
17      reduce diesel pollution, stimulate automobile  
18      manufacturing in the state, and grow  
19      high-paying jobs in the manufacturing sector.

20          For all these reasons, I strongly urge  
21      the Board to adopt the three rules that I've  
22      been talking about.

23          And thank you very much for the  
24      opportunity to address the Board.

1 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
2 you so much.

3 Next, Ava Cohen.

4 AVA COHEN: Hello. My name is  
5 Ava Cohen. I live in Elmhurst, and I'm a  
6 member of the Sierra Club Citizens Climate  
7 Lobby and the Climate Reality Project.

8 As a recent graduate who studied  
9 environmental policy, social justice, and  
10 sustainability, I understand how greenhouse  
11 gas emissions can drive climate change, but  
12 more importantly, I can understand the human  
13 costs of inaction.

14 I'm here today because the State of  
15 Illinois has a clear choice to make: Protect  
16 our air, our communities, and our future by  
17 adopting three motor vehicle emission rules,  
18 or continue down a path of pollution and harm.

19 As a young person, I care very deeply  
20 about climate change and the world I will grow  
21 old in, but pollution doesn't just accelerate  
22 global warming, sea level rise, and natural  
23 disasters; it poisons the air we breathe,  
24 posing a severe threat to public health,

1 particularly in low-income communities and  
2 communities of color.

3 I have asthma myself, and even brief  
4 exposure to smog and pollution can make it  
5 harder for me to breathe.

6 For me, pollution is an inconvenience,  
7 but for people living in highly-polluted areas  
8 with severe respiratory conditions, for the  
9 elderly and for children, pollution is  
10 dangerous.

11 So since transportation has been the  
12 dirtiest sector in the state. Though trucks,  
13 buses, and delivery vans make up just seven  
14 percent of vehicles on the road, they produce  
15 67 percent of nitrogen oxide pollution, 59  
16 percent of particulate matter pollution, and  
17 36 percent of greenhouse gases emissions.

18 Cook County currently has failing  
19 grades for particulate matter pollution. No  
20 child should have to grow up in an environment  
21 where the air they breathe is toxic.

22 Every inhale delivers toxins into their  
23 lungs, increasing their risks of asthma,  
24 developmental delays, and lifelong health

1 issues beyond their control. This Pollution  
2 Control Board has the power to change that.

3 By adopting Clean Car, Clean Truck, and  
4 Heavy-Duty Low NOx rules, we can cut harmful  
5 emissions, improve air quality, and combat  
6 climate change; but most importantly, we can  
7 protect the health of Illinoisans.

8 Illinois has the opportunity to take  
9 the lead, to show that we value people over  
10 pollution, and that we are willing to make  
11 bold choices for a more sustainable future.

12 18 other states have already  
13 implemented these rules. Please do not let  
14 Illinois fall behind. Every day that passes  
15 without action, more people are exposed to  
16 harmful pollutants that compromise their  
17 health and their futures.

18 We cannot afford to wait any longer.  
19 The evidence is clear, and the need is urgent.  
20 This board holds the power to shape the future  
21 of our state. Please adopt these rules, not  
22 just for the environment, but for the health  
23 and well-being of all Illinoisans. Our  
24 communities deserve nothing less.

1           Thank you for the opportunity to  
2       address the Board.

3                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Thank  
4       you so much.

5           And I'll circle back to Kathleen  
6       McFadden.

7                   KATHLEEN MCFADDEN:   Can you hear  
8       me now?

9                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Yes, we  
10      can hear you.

11                   HEARING OFFICER LEONI:   Yes.

12           Oh, no.   Kathleen, you have gone away.

13                   KATHLEEN MCFADDEN:   How did I --  
14      am I there now?

15                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Yes.  
16      Yes, yes, yes.

17                   HEARING OFFICER LEONI:   Don't  
18      touch anything.

19                   KATHLEEN MCFADDEN:   Okay.   All  
20      right.   Let's try this.   Let me know if you  
21      can't hear me again.

22                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Okay.  
23      Okay.

24                   KATHLEEN MCFADDEN:   Good

1 afternoon. I'm Dr. Kathleen McFadden. I'm a  
2 board of trustee professor and dean's  
3 distinguished professor of operations  
4 management at Northern Illinois University,  
5 emeritus professor.

6 Thank you for giving me this  
7 opportunity to offer my comments on the clean  
8 vehicle standards.

9 I have an undergraduate degree in  
10 economics, an MBA and a PhD in business, with  
11 an emphasis in operations management. For  
12 over 35 years, I have taught business classes,  
13 including finance, economics, marketing,  
14 management, and operations.

15 Based on my expertise, I urge the  
16 Illinois Pollution Board to adopt the Advanced  
17 Clean Cars, Advanced Clean Trucks, and  
18 Heavy-Duty Low Oxide Nitrogen Omnibus rules  
19 for Illinois.

20 Why do I care about this issue? Well,  
21 I have spent my entire career researching and  
22 recommending ways to reduce bad public health  
23 and safety outcomes, while approaching  
24 problems from a business perspective.

1 I have published over 40 academic  
2 articles in this area. I also care deeply  
3 about our environment. That's why I drive an  
4 electric car and I have solar panels on my  
5 home.

6 If we learn of ways to prevent or  
7 lessen the impact of bad outcomes, I believe  
8 we are obligated to act. I have looked over  
9 the research and facts and statistics on the  
10 rule, and I understand that beyond the  
11 benefits related to the environment and public  
12 health, it also makes good economic sense,  
13 especially in the long run.

14 Several states have already adopted  
15 these standards, and major corporations such  
16 as Amazon, PepsiCo, and Walmart are already  
17 using electric trucks to transport products.

18 I can assure you that these companies  
19 have run the numbers, and they know that the  
20 total operating cost of zero-emission  
21 heavy-duty vehicles will be significantly  
22 lower than their diesel counterparts, thus  
23 enabling them to increase their profits and  
24 pass savings onto their customers.

1           Adopting clean vehicle standards is  
2       projected to lead to major economic benefits  
3       of approximately \$170 billion by 2040. In  
4       addition, the rules are expected to add over  
5       18,000 new jobs by 2030, with wages about 50  
6       percent higher than the jobs they would  
7       replace.

8           The overall direct cost savings to  
9       consumers from the use of electric vehicles  
10      will be significant, because of the savings in  
11      fuel costs, maintenance costs, and longevity  
12      improvements.

13          The rule will result in less vehicle  
14      downtime, savings on operation costs, and  
15      reduced out-of-pocket costs for vehicle  
16      repair.

17          Sticker prices are also coming down on  
18      EVs. Almost all models of electric trucks are  
19      expected to cost no more than their diesel  
20      equivalents. For all these reasons, I  
21      strongly urge you to adopt the clean vehicle  
22      standards for Illinois.

23          Thank you for your time.

24                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Thank



1     you so much.

2             I'll circle back to Sativa Volbrecht.

3             Okay. I'll circle back to her at the  
4     end.

5             Next is Linda Wegrzyn.

6                     LINDA WEGRZYN: Thank you to the  
7     Board for the opportunity to comment.

8             My name is Linda Wegrzyn, and I live in  
9     St. Clair County, and I'm speaking today as an  
10    individual.

11            When I get exposed to air pollution, I  
12    get irritation in my bronchial tubes and  
13    throat, and then that always develops into a  
14    respiratory tract infection, and then getting  
15    those types of infections leads to reduced  
16    lung function.

17            Think about all the people in Illinois  
18    that are affected by some type of lung  
19    condition. All the pollution around us  
20    affects people with lung conditions and heart  
21    disease, and leads to more missed school days,  
22    missed work, and an increase in health care  
23    costs that people can't afford.

24            Instituting clean vehicle standards is

1 an easy way for Illinois to reduce pollution.

2 This type of pollution doesn't just  
3 affect people in big cities. Even though the  
4 ambient air quality may look fine for most  
5 counties, this type of pollution is generated  
6 right where people are breathing.

7 For people who are frequently around a  
8 school bus, delivery truck, or other vehicle  
9 pollution, they are going to suffer, even if  
10 they live downstate.

11 This is too important to just be left  
12 to chance. Illinois has the opportunity to  
13 improve the health of our citizens by adopting  
14 clean vehicle standards.

15 Thank you for your consideration.

16 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
17 you so much.

18 Next is Karen Glennemeier.

19 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: I don't  
20 see her here.

21 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Okay.

22 Karen Glennemeier?

23 And just so everyone knows, I'll circle  
24 back to people who I call on and don't respond

1 at the end.

2 Next is Lawrence Pfafflin.

3 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Hello. Thank  
4 you. My name is Lawrence Pfafflin. I live in  
5 Elmhurst, Illinois. I'm originally from  
6 Bellwood, so --

7 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh, no.  
8 Mr. Pfafflin, I believe your mic has dropped  
9 out. We can't hear you anymore.

10 We still can't hear you. Is your -- is  
11 your computer muted?

12 No.

13 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: No.

14 How about this. I'll move on to the  
15 next person if you wanted to figure something  
16 out, and then always -- you can always call in  
17 from the number as well. But I'll move on to  
18 the next person, and I'll circle back to you.

19 Sorry about that. We heard you right  
20 at the beginning, but I'm not sure what cut  
21 out.

22 Next is Angela Berglund.

23 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: I don't  
24 see Angela.

1 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Okay.

2 Angela Berglund?

3 All right. And then after that is  
4 Gloria Barrera.

5 Gloria Barrera?

6 All right. Mr. Pfafflin, we are back  
7 to you.

8 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Is it --

9 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: We hear  
10 you. We hear you.

11 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh, no.  
12 Now we don't hear you.

13 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: We lost  
14 you again. I'm sorry.

15 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Let me --  
16 let me try muting and unmuting you.

17 Okay, Mr. Pfafflin, go ahead.

18 We still can't hear you. I'm sorry.

19 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: If you  
20 wanted to log out and then log back in, I'll  
21 call on you after the next set -- next group  
22 of people.

23 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Oh, we

1 just heard you.

2 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Oh, I'm  
3 active again?

4 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes. Go  
5 for it.

6 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Don't  
7 touch anything.

8 Oh, no.

9 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: We lost  
10 you again. I'm sorry.

11 Okay. Okay. Thank you so much.

12 Next is Zach Harris.

13 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: I do not  
14 see Zach Harris.

15 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Okay.

16 Next is Dorelle Ackermann.

17 DORELLE ACKERMANN: Hello. Can  
18 you hear me?

19 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

20 DORELLE ACKERMANN: My name is  
21 Dorelle Ackermann. I live in Mokena,  
22 Illinois.

23 I have the convenience of living near  
24 intersections I-80, I-57, and I-30, 355, but

1 that means I also have a serious health risk.

2 As a resident of Will County and  
3 someone who frequently travels to Cook and  
4 DuPage County, I have the misfortune to  
5 breathe the worst air quality of the "dirty  
6 dozen" counties in Illinois, according to the  
7 2022 report from the Respiratory Health  
8 Association.

9 I remember being concerned for my  
10 brother, who lives in Palo Alto, California,  
11 during the height of the California forest  
12 fires. So I checked my iPhone weather app  
13 that morning, and to my surprise, the air  
14 quality, or lack thereof, I was breathing was  
15 by far more dangerous than the air my brother  
16 was breathing.

17 I'm old enough to remember the smog and  
18 air quality of the Chicago area prior to the  
19 passage of the Clean Air Act of 1970. We  
20 should be proud of how we have succeeded in  
21 improving our air quality since that time.  
22 Still, we need to do more.

23 I am especially concerned with the 2.5  
24 parts per million particulate matter I'm

1 breathing, because it can't be seen and our  
2 lungs can't filter it out of our respiratory  
3 tract.

4 So here's the fact where you, the  
5 Pollution Board, can take action. Diesel  
6 exhaust contributes almost 60 percent of this  
7 particulate matter while making up only seven  
8 percent of vehicles on Illinois roads.

9 A 2022 Clean Air Task Force projected  
10 that diesel engine exhaust would result 416  
11 deaths in Illinois just from the 2.5 parts per  
12 million particulate matter. So you have an  
13 opportunity to save lives.

14 Therefore, it is with urgency that I  
15 ask this board to pass clean vehicle standards  
16 that protect Illinois citizens.

17 Besides the health benefit and lives  
18 saved, these standards would also include  
19 18,000 new jobs by 2030, more than \$150  
20 billion in state economic benefits by 2040,  
21 and the standards can be similar to those  
22 standards outlined in the legislation that's  
23 been mentioned before: The Advanced Clean  
24 Trucks rules, where electric vehicles have

1 zero pipe emissions, the Heavy-Duty Omnibus  
2 rule, which strengthens the standards for  
3 trucks already on the road, and the Advanced  
4 Clean Cars 2 rules.

5 I myself am an owner of two electric  
6 vehicles, so I can personally attest to the  
7 cost savings of owning electric vehicles.

8 By strengthening clean vehicle  
9 standards, you can uphold the goals from the  
10 passage of the clean -- the Climate and  
11 Equitable Jobs Act, and ensure that Illinois  
12 is a leader in the transition to clean energy  
13 transportation.

14 Thank you for giving me this time.

15 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
16 you so much.

17 Next is Andrew Sloan.

18 Andrew Sloan?

19 Just so everyone knows, I'll circle  
20 back to anyone I have called on, in case they  
21 are having technical issues.

22 Next is Sharon White.

23 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh. Ms.  
24 White, you are unmuted now.



1 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yeah.

2 SHARON WHITE: Can you hear --  
3 can you hear me?

4 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

5 SHARON WHITE: You can hear me?

6 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

7 SHARON WHITE: Yes?

8 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

9 SHARON WHITE: I'm a retired --  
10 I'm a retired science teacher, mother of four,  
11 and grandmother of 10. Not only do I care  
12 about my family, but our earth, and its people  
13 who need to breathe clean air, a human right.

14 Illinois is a great state that fights  
15 for people's health rights -- abortion,  
16 vaccines, Medicaid -- but we are failing in  
17 the air that we breathe. We are the seventh  
18 worst in the nation.

19 It's a proven fact that diesel exhaust  
20 contributes to heart and lung disease, and  
21 some cancers. We need vehicle standards now.

22 Humans tend to wait until there's a  
23 crisis. People, we are in a crisis. A --  
24 ACT, HDO, and ACC have been adopted in other

1 states; they have done the work.

2 Yes, we are an agricultural,  
3 industrial, business, and transportation hub.  
4 That's what makes Illinois great, and we can  
5 be all that and good health for our people  
6 with these standards or rules.

7 Please adopt these standards before  
8 Trump does something to prevent it.

9 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
10 you so much.

11 Next is Michael Ondek, Ondek?

12 Michael Ondek?

13 Okay. I'll circle back to you, Mr.  
14 Pfafflin.

15 I'm so sorry, we can't hear you.

16 I'll suggest one other thing. On that  
17 hearing officer order, there is a phone number  
18 that you can also call. You could try calling  
19 in, and I'll call on you at the end of the  
20 next group of people.

21 Otherwise, you are certainly welcome to  
22 submit a written public comment. The Board  
23 weighs oral and written public comments  
24 equally.

1 I'll circle back to Andrew Sloan.

2 Zach Harris?

3 Okay. Moving on to Andy Daglas.

4 Karen Fort?

5 Karen Glennemeier?

6 KAREN GLENNEMEIER: Can you hear  
7 me?

8 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

9 KAREN GLENNEMEIER: Great.

10 Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I'll  
11 keep it brief.

12 I just want to say that I support the  
13 adoption of Advanced Clean Cars 2, Advanced  
14 Clean Trucks, and Heavy-Duty Omnibus emissions  
15 regulations.

16 These higher standards will save lives  
17 and reduce illness. They'll save Illinois  
18 money, as well as improving the health and  
19 quality of life for all of us. And many other  
20 states have already adopted these standards,  
21 so it's not like we are inventing something  
22 new, and it's time for Illinois to do the  
23 same.

24 Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
2 you so much.

3 Angela Berglund?

4 Gloria Barrera?

5 Zach Harris?

6 Andrew Sloan?

7 Andy Daglas?

8 Karen Fort?

9 Anthony Marinelli?

10 ANTHONY MARINELLI: I want to  
11 thank the Illinois Pollution Control Board for  
12 allowing me to comment on the proposed clean  
13 vehicle rules.

14 My name is Dr. Anthony Marinelli. I  
15 completed my training as a pulmonologist at  
16 the University of Illinois in 1978.

17 My pulmonary medicine practice  
18 encompassed office and hospital patient care  
19 in Chicago, Oak Park, and other suburban  
20 locations.

21 I have been on the board of directors  
22 of the Respiratory Health Association for 30  
23 years.

24 I am here to speak about the health

1 effects on humans from car and truck vehicle  
2 emissions on Illinois roads.

3 I have firsthand experience with the  
4 consequences of air pollution, on my patients  
5 with asthma, chronic obstructive lung disease,  
6 and other lung conditions.

7 Air pollution due to the products of  
8 tailpipe emissions is a documented increasing  
9 threat, impacting all ages from the very young  
10 to older adults, individuals of color and  
11 those in proximity to busy highways being  
12 disproportionately adversely affected.

13 Individuals often complain of  
14 difficulty breathing, cough, wheezing,  
15 exacerbation of asthma and COPD on air -- on  
16 poor air quality days.

17 The impact of air pollution on humans  
18 can include missing work or school, especially  
19 for those working outside, increased emergency  
20 department visits, hospitalizations, and  
21 premature deaths.

22 Five Illinois counties, including Cook,  
23 received a pollution F grade from the American  
24 Lung Association in 2024.

1 Residents of those counties and others  
2 without A grades are at increased risk of the  
3 negative health, societal, and economic  
4 impacts caused by soot pollution from diesel  
5 trucks and buses.

6 Many residents in Illinois live in  
7 communities impacted by unhealthy levels of  
8 air pollution.

9 Patients are often counseled by health  
10 care professionals to monitor air quality,  
11 consider wearing a mask, or using a  
12 prophylactic inhaler when outside on poor air  
13 quality days.

14 Other patients choose to stay indoors,  
15 and this altogether will impact their quality  
16 of life.

17 Non-electric vehicles have a  
18 significant negative impact on air pollution.

19 I am asking the IPCB to advance the  
20 Advanced Clean Cars 2, the Advanced Clean  
21 Trucks, and the Heavy-Duty Low NOx Omnibus  
22 rules.

23 The swift adoption of these rules will  
24 reduce harmful vehicle pollution, prevent

1 numerous pollution-related emergency  
2 departments visits and hospitalization, and  
3 save hundreds of lives. Please act to improve  
4 the air quality for the citizens of Illinois.

5 Thank you for your time. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
7 you so much.

8 I'm going to circle back to the last  
9 batch.

10 Zach Harris?

11 ZACH HARRIS: Oh. Thank you.

12 I would also like to give comment to  
13 support the Advanced Clean Trucks rule and the  
14 Heavy-Duty Low Nitrogen Omnibus rules.

15 So I live -- I'm in Lincoln Square,  
16 2427 West Eastwood.

17 So I live right by Western Street,  
18 which is a very busy street. It's a very  
19 polluted street, too. I pretty much cross  
20 that street every day, either because I'm  
21 biking somewhere, I'm going to take the train,  
22 or I'm walking to the grocery store, and it is  
23 disgusting.

24 Like I really feel like from the moment

1 I get to that street, my lungs, just they  
2 don't feel good, I don't feel healthy.

3 And I'm, you know, I'm 25. I don't  
4 really have any serious health conditions.  
5 I'm really lucky not to have asthma, but I'm  
6 really thinking about all like the children of  
7 my neighborhood, the high schoolers waiting  
8 for the bus right by Western, and all the  
9 people who are really suffering because of the  
10 really big heavy trucks that are going through  
11 our city down Western every day and polluting  
12 my neighborhood.

13 And I would just be so excited if we  
14 could move to electric vehicles that are not  
15 going to pollute and are going to ensure  
16 that -- and just, you know, in general keep --  
17 keep our -- keep our health safe, keep our  
18 community safe, and I really hope the Board  
19 supports these new rules.

20 And I'll yield the rest of my time.

21 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
22 you so much.

23 Andrew Sloan?

24 Michael Ondek?



1 I'm just going to acknowledge that we  
2 have had about 10 people not show, so we are  
3 moving -- we are ahead of schedule, so I'm  
4 going on to the next group.

5 Andy Daglas?

6 [Discussion off the record.]

7 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Next,  
8 Karen Fort?

9 Tom Coleman?

10 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Hello --

11 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Oh, was  
12 that Karen Fort?

13 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: We are  
14 hearing someone who has called in from a phone  
15 line. Is that Karen Fort?

16 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: It's Lawrence  
17 Pfafflin, but there's some feedback.

18 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Oh, Mr.  
19 Pfafflin. Let's go ahead.

20 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Okay. I had  
21 an audio problem, and I guess I'm still having  
22 some audio problems, but I -- if this is  
23 audible --

24 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: We can

1 hear you great.

2 LAWRENCE PFAFFLIN: Great.

3 Terrific.

4 Thank you very much for the opportunity  
5 to speak with you this afternoon. My name is  
6 Lawrence Pfafflin. I'm from Elmhurst,  
7 Illinois, originally from Bellwood, Illinois,  
8 so I have grown up right along this line  
9 between DuPage and Cook County.

10 Those of you -- most of you are  
11 probably familiar with this area. The  
12 Pollution Control Board members certainly are  
13 probably familiar with our air quality issues  
14 in this area.

15 I appreciate the ability to voice my  
16 concerns about the direction Illinois needs to  
17 take to address our local air quality and the  
18 global climate emergency.

19 According to the 2022 Illinois EPA  
20 report, 42 percent of our days here, 153 in  
21 all, in the Chicago and west reporting area  
22 were not good. That's nearly half.

23 How many of us would be willing to  
24 accept a 42 percent of anything that we

1 consume as not good quality?

2 Five of those days were considered  
3 unhealthy. So that's truly a limiting factor;  
4 you shouldn't even be outside in most of -- on  
5 most of those days.

6 My city of Elmhurst is bounded and  
7 crisscrossed by interstate and major arterial  
8 roads. Asthma levels are high. Air quality  
9 index levels are far above national averages.

10 Neighboring communities, like where I  
11 grew up in Bellwood, Hillside, Berkeley, are  
12 similarly affected, if not even more  
13 negatively affected.

14 Truck and train traffic in the  
15 adjacent -- excuse me -- railyards, massive  
16 new package delivery centers, and air cargo  
17 terminals contribute heavily to the local  
18 transportation emissions mix.

19 York High School in Elmhurst has a  
20 world-famous cross-country running program.  
21 Coach Joe Newton has had movies made about  
22 him. Everywhere I travel, if the subject of  
23 York High School comes up, any runner knows  
24 about York High School's running program.

1           Both of my daughters participated in  
2   that program. The training begins in middle  
3   school if you want to be serious about the  
4   team, and continues year-round while you  
5   participate.

6           One of my daughters has respiratory  
7   problems now and has moved out of the area for  
8   better air quality.

9           Knowing what I know now about the poor  
10   air quality here, I would not have wanted  
11   either of them to participate in that sport,  
12   in spite -- in spite of the positive effect  
13   that athletics had on their academic lives and  
14   their careers. Sports is really good for kids  
15   in high school.

16           Please think about that for just a  
17   moment. How many parents would want to  
18   wrestle with the choice of removing their kids  
19   from a state-champion-quality team because  
20   their participation poses a serious risk to  
21   their health?

22           On another subject, and the condition  
23   in this region, and certainly throughout the  
24   Chicago area, highway traffic and congestion

1 continue to increase.

2 Chicagoans now have commute times  
3 amongst the highest in the United States.  
4 Added lanes fill up almost as quickly as they  
5 are completed, and on I-294 South, the entire  
6 eastern border of Elmhurst is a continual line  
7 of stop-and-go truck traffic, queued up for  
8 the I-88 West ramp. This creates the worst  
9 possible emissions scenario.

10 The Hillside Strangler, if you are  
11 familiar with that, was a traffic jam that  
12 headed onto the Eisenhower interstate, and it  
13 was supposed to be solved by expansion of  
14 extra lanes and extra clover loops --  
15 cloverleafs.

16 It didn't. It's worse than ever. The  
17 traffic is backed up as ever. If anything,  
18 the Strangler has cloned, and it moved east  
19 and west and south, and it has gotten even  
20 meaner.

21 The traffic and air quality index  
22 situation could change very rapidly and not  
23 for the better. A push for fewer imports will  
24 mean that more local production and

1 distribution, creating even more traffic,  
2 could ensue.

3 Climate-related migration from some  
4 areas will inevitably create urban expansion  
5 and infill and more transportation demand in  
6 our area.

7 The new I-490 tollway traffic is  
8 designed to increase and enhance cargo traffic  
9 at O'Hare.

10 So we are doing everything we can to  
11 put more vehicles on the road, but nothing to  
12 address the air quality issues that ensue.

13 Finally, restoring and maintaining  
14 healthy air quality requires modernizing the  
15 vehicle fleet through the adoption and  
16 implementation of the proposed standards in  
17 the act and ACC2 standards.

18 When Illinois adopts the ACC2  
19 standards, joining 18 other states on the  
20 list, the majority of United States GDP, gross  
21 domestic product, will be represented by the  
22 member states.

23 There is strength in numbers.  
24 Especially in the current federal political

1 climate, it's more or less on the states, it's  
2 on us in Illinois, to do what we can to  
3 protect our health and our environment.

4 Illinois is a leader in clean vehicle  
5 production. Let's reinforce that. Let's  
6 build on our successes.

7 To the members of the Pollution Control  
8 Board, please, please, use your authority to  
9 implement both the ACT, the ACC2, and the  
10 Heavy-Duty Omnibus Act.

11 It's on us. The ball is truly in our  
12 hands locally now.

13 Thank you very much for your time.

14 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
15 you so much.

16 Next, Andy Daglas?

17 Karen Fort?

18 Tom Coleman?

19 TOM COLEMAN: Yes. Can you hear  
20 me all right?

21 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

22 THOMAS COLEMAN: Okay.

23 Thank you for this time to speak. My  
24 name is Thomas Coleman, and I am co-chair of

1 the Climate Reality Chicago Metro Chapter.

2 We are a 700-member organization in  
3 Chicago metro area, part of a 50,000-member  
4 national organization. We are dedicated to  
5 lowering noxious pollution and greenhouse gas  
6 emissions in Illinois.

7 Driving electric and powering my home  
8 from the sun has been critical to me and my  
9 family, from a financial, an emissions, and a  
10 moral standpoint.

11 Greenhouse -- greenhouse gas emissions  
12 from transportation in the USA represent about  
13 28 percent of emissions. Light-duty cars,  
14 SUVs, vans, and pickup trucks are responsible  
15 for about 59 percent of this. And these  
16 emissions -- and another 24 percent are medium  
17 and heavy-duty trucks and buses.

18 It's past time that we recognize that  
19 Illinois must take action to curb these  
20 emissions, given the correction -- I'm sorry,  
21 the correlation between greenhouse gas  
22 emissions and global heating.

23 And unfortunately, these carbon  
24 emissions are accumulating in the atmosphere,



1 and carbon dioxide remains active in the  
2 environment for about a thousand years.

3 With this, with the United States the  
4 number one emitter per capita worldwide and by  
5 far the number one cumulative emitter in  
6 history -- you know, it builds up -- it is  
7 time for change in Illinois.

8 Some people might want to negotiate the  
9 science of sustainability when decisions are  
10 difficult, but the laws of physics cannot be  
11 compromised. They are what they are, and 97  
12 percent of scientists are clear on this point.  
13 Lowering emissions is urgent, and change is  
14 needed now.

15 I'll conclude simply by saying that  
16 some people think that these recommended  
17 changes restrict our freedoms to buy the cars  
18 we want to buy.

19 If doing this pollutes and hurts  
20 people, about four to six metric tons for  
21 every car of greenhouse gases, then the kind  
22 of freedom isn't freedom at all. Freedom is  
23 to breathe clean air, come -- and this must  
24 come first.

1           This is where the Pollution Control  
2 Board can exercise its power for the kind of  
3 freedom that we want, clean air and more  
4 sustainable climate.

5           And Advanced Clean Cars and Trucks do  
6 not ban existing vehicles, and gradually  
7 increase the number of vehicles over time.  
8 This is the kind of gradual change we need to  
9 adjust our population and our industries to  
10 cut pollution and greenhouse gas emissions  
11 over time.

12           Please approve Advanced Clean Cars and  
13 Trucks and HDO now. The future of Illinois  
14 residents depend on you.

15           Thank you.

16                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
17 you so much.

18           Next is Joyin Akinola.

19           I'll circle back to Andy Daglas.

20           Karen Fort?

21           And --

22                   HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Do we  
23 hear Karen? No.

24                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Michael

1 Ondek?

2 MICHAEL ONDEK: Yeah, I'm here.

3 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Oh,  
4 perfect.

5 MICHAEL ONDEK: Thank you very  
6 much for circling back.

7 My name is Michael Ondek, and I'm a  
8 member of the Sierra Club and a parishioner of  
9 St. Walter Church in Roselle, Illinois.

10 As a member of the Sierra Club, I know  
11 that Illinois's three most populous counties  
12 all have received failing or near-failing  
13 grades for air quality from the American Lung  
14 Association's State of the Air report, and  
15 then since 2019 transportation has been the  
16 dirtiest sector in the state, surpassing coal.

17 As a member of the Catholic church, I'm  
18 reminded of the words of Pope Francis: If we  
19 took the planet's temperature, it will tell us  
20 that the earth has a fever and it is sick.

21 The issue of clean air is very  
22 important to me. I have lost family members  
23 to lung cancer, irritation and inflammation  
24 caused by particulate air pollution

1 contributes to cancer, and also makes the  
2 final years and months of those with lung  
3 cancer more miserable.

4 I also have current family members that  
5 have chronic medical breathing condit --  
6 issues, and have asthma myself, and have a  
7 prescription inhaler.

8 On bad air pollution days, mine and my  
9 family's health suffers, along with all of  
10 Illinois, and can have acute medical issues  
11 because of the poor air quality.

12 There are three ways to help save me,  
13 my family, and my community from suffering  
14 under these current conditions and improve  
15 future generations' health.

16 The first is to implement the Advanced  
17 Clean Trucks Act rule. The ACT rule would  
18 require truck makers to sell an increased  
19 percentage of zero-emission trucks. This  
20 allow Illinois to join 11 other states in  
21 improving air quality for its citizens and  
22 help slow global warming.

23 The second way is to implement the  
24 Heavy-Duty Low Nitrous Oxide Omnibus, HDO

1 rule. HDO will update standards, tests, and  
2 compliance for nitrous oxide and particulate  
3 matter emissions from new heavy-duty trucks.

4 And third is to implement the Advanced  
5 Clean Car 2 Act. The ACC2 rule will put  
6 Illinois on the path to 100 percent  
7 zero-emission car sales by 2035.

8 This would allow Illinois to join the  
9 14 other states in improving air quality for  
10 its citizens, showing they care, and help to  
11 slow global warming.

12 My ask is simple. Illinois needs the  
13 Illinois Pollution Control Board to adopt the  
14 ACT, HDO, and ACC2 rules to improve the health  
15 of every citizen in Illinois, and promote our  
16 state from the -- protect our state from the  
17 threat of the federal government lowering  
18 their standards.

19 So please help protect me, my family,  
20 my church, and my state from breathing  
21 polluted poor-quality air caused by heavy-duty  
22 trucks and passenger vehicles by adopting the  
23 ACT, HDO, and ACC2 rules.

24 Thank you for your time.

1 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
2 you so much.

3 And we're running a little ahead of  
4 schedule, so I'm just going to take a chance  
5 to circle back to everyone that we have missed  
6 so far.

7 Susan Mudd?

8 Sativa Volbrecht?

9 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh,  
10 Joyin.

11 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Angela  
12 Berglund?

13 Gloria Barrera?

14 Andrew Sloan?

15 Andy Daglas?

16 Karen Fort?

17 Joyin Akinola?

18 JOYIN AKINOLA: Yes?

19 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.  
20 Okay. You can proceed.

21 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh, I  
22 think you are muted. Now you are not. Now  
23 you are.

24 Joyin Akinola: Oh, am I muted

1 now?

2 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: No, we  
3 can hear you.

4 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: No, now  
5 you are good.

6 JOYIN AKINOLA: Perfect. Thank  
7 you.

8 Well, my name is Joyin Akinola, and I'm  
9 currently a sophomore at Northwestern  
10 University in Elliston (sic), Illinois, and  
11 I'm volunteering with the Sierra Club as a  
12 part of Northwestern's Organizing For Justice  
13 program.

14 I come to you, urging to take -- I'm  
15 urging you to take -- I'm urging the Pollution  
16 Control Board to implement the clean vehicle  
17 standards today and take the first steps in  
18 making Illinois a better, greener state.

19 Learning that Illinois is frankly  
20 behind in this movement shocked me, as we live  
21 in a state known for its diverse set of needs  
22 and people, with expansive rural and farm  
23 towns and a thriving city that draws people in  
24 for all -- from all over the country,

1 including myself, which is why I feel like it  
2 is of utmost importance that we protect not  
3 only our land but every resident's health.

4 It is well documented, the adverse  
5 effects of pollution from vehicles like cars  
6 and trucks on communities, especially  
7 communities of color.

8 In our state, specifically Chicago --  
9 and in specifically Chicago, black and Latino  
10 are communities are most adverse (sic)  
11 affected by air pollution, with Kimberly  
12 Wasserman, the executive director of Little  
13 Village's Environmental Justice Organization,  
14 calling the south and west sides "sacrifice  
15 zones," because residents are so exposed to  
16 toxic air on a daily basis.

17 This issue does not just affect the  
18 city, though increased pollution -- as  
19 increased pollution will affect each and every  
20 one of us, if we sit idly while the problem  
21 grows.

22 Air pollution is more than an  
23 environmental issue, it's a public health  
24 crisis, it's a social justice issue, and most



1       importantly a human issue.

2               This only grows with time and if we do  
3       not make a stand for it now, which is why I  
4       hope that Illinois adopts cleaner vehicle  
5       standards that will not only improve our  
6       state's air quality but each and every one of  
7       us.

8               And so I urge the Pollution Control  
9       Board to make changes now and adopt the clean  
10      vehicle standards that will help Illinois not  
11      only in the long term but also the short term,  
12      and show that Illinois has a true dedication  
13      to making sure that every and each one of its  
14      residents stay safe.

15              Thank you.

16                      HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Thank  
17      you so much.

18              Next is Christina Pickett.

19                      CHRISTINA PICKETT:   Hello.   Hi.

20                      HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Hi.

21                      CHRISTINA PICKETT:   Okay.   Hi.

22              My name is Christina Pickett, and I'm  
23      here today to highlight the crucial importance  
24      of clean air, not just as a public health

1 issue but as a deeply personal one.

2 I just want to share a quick story  
3 about my son Lincoln, who is three. Lincoln,  
4 like many other children his age, should be  
5 running around, spending his days full of  
6 energy. Instead, he has faced many challenges  
7 that too many children have had to endure.

8 Lincoln was diagnosed with asthma, a  
9 condition that severely affects his ability to  
10 breathe, and as a baby he was hospitalized  
11 twice due to severe respiratory issues.

12 Both times Lincoln was hospitalized, we  
13 were on vacation and should have been enjoying  
14 ourselves. I remember watching over my son  
15 all night, listening to his wheezing, watching  
16 his tiny chest rise and fall, and making that  
17 final call to take him to the ER.

18 As a parent, there's nothing more  
19 gut-wrenching than seeing your child in pain  
20 and feeling powerless to alleviate it.

21 Studies have linked clean (sic) air  
22 pollution with the worst symptoms of childhood  
23 asthma, and some studies have demonstrated  
24 that there may be disproportionate impacts on

1 black kids like Lincoln.

2 The good news is Lincoln and countless  
3 other children suffering can be alleviated by  
4 stricter control of pollutants in our air.  
5 This is why I volunteered to speak.

6 The health and well-being of our  
7 children, our families, our communities,  
8 depend on the air we breathe. It's  
9 imperative, we must adopt policies that reduce  
10 air pollution and safeguard public health.

11 This is why I'm urging the Illinois  
12 Pollution Control Board to adopt the Advanced  
13 Clean Cars 2, the Advanced Clean Trucks, and  
14 the Heavy-Duty Omnibus NOx rules.

15 These regulations are not just  
16 policies, they are lifelines for families like  
17 mine, they represent a commitment to a future  
18 where no parent has to witness their child  
19 gasping for air, where our skies are clear and  
20 our air is pure. By implementing these rules,  
21 you can take a stand for the health of our  
22 youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

23 Thank you for your time and  
24 consideration. Let's work together to ensure

1 a cleaner, healthier future for all of our  
2 children.

3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
5 you so much.

6 Next is Jeffrey Gahriss.

7 JEFFREY GAHRIS: Yes. Thank you.

8 Yes, I'm here to comment on the clean  
9 trucks rule, but I thank you for the  
10 opportunity to speak before this rulemaking  
11 body. I'm a senior citizen living in Wheaton,  
12 Illinois, and volunteer for the Sierra Club.

13 As a resident of DuPage County, I  
14 endure heavy diesel traffic on busy roads and  
15 on our residential streets. Dump trucks are  
16 especially egregious, and even school buses  
17 can be seen spewing particulates visibly,  
18 impacting the lungs of young children and  
19 other vulnerable people, such as seniors.

20 I appreciate the intent of the proposed  
21 Advanced Clean Trucks rule that would benefit  
22 local health by providing businesses with the  
23 option of acquiring trucks that would meet  
24 these emission standards.

1 I ask that the Advanced Clean Truck  
2 rule be adopted so we can join the 11 other  
3 states that have adopted similar rules.

4 Similarly, the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low  
5 NOx rule promises to reduce NOx emissions,  
6 which is critical to maintaining our air  
7 quality standards in metropolitan areas. 14  
8 other states have adopted similar standards.

9 These two rulemakings must be adopted  
10 now before the administration in Washington,  
11 D.C., takes away our right to adopt standards  
12 more strict than the federal requirements.

13 So thank you again for this opportunity  
14 to speak.

15 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
16 you so much.

17 Next is William Reich.

18 William Reich?

19 Next is Sean Reeser.

20 SEAN REESER: Hi. Can you hear  
21 me?

22 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

23 SEAN REESER: Can you hear me?  
24 Am I audible?

1 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Yes, you  
2 are, Mr. Reeser. Can you hear us?

3 SEAN REESER: Yes, I can hear  
4 you. There we go. I was trying to get my  
5 camera working.

6 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh,  
7 perfect.

8 SEAN REESER: All right.

9 So good evening. My name is Sean  
10 Reeser, and I live in the Logan Square  
11 neighborhood of Chicago.

12 I work as a substitute special  
13 education and earth sciences teacher for  
14 Chicago Public Schools, and on the side, I'm a  
15 small business owner, working as a saxophone  
16 player and repairer out of the small  
17 commercial space near my home. I'm also a  
18 member of the Sierra Club Illinois chapter.

19 I'm here today to speak in favor of the  
20 clean vehicle standards and the omnibus  
21 currently under consideration by the Pollution  
22 Control Board.

23 Transportation is the leading source of  
24 CO2 pollution in Illinois, and CO2 and other

1 transportation-related particulate air  
2 pollution heavily affect my community. This  
3 is an issue that matters to me both  
4 professionally and personally.

5 As a teacher in the school system, one  
6 of my foremost concerns here is our students.  
7 The University of Chicago has been conducting  
8 a large amount of research since 2019 that has  
9 repeatedly and consistently linked air  
10 pollution levels to academic performance and  
11 cognitive development in children.

12 I would cite one such example, a paper  
13 published in 2022, which drew data  
14 specifically from Cook County, Illinois. This  
15 study found that higher air pollution has a  
16 measurable and significant negative impact on  
17 children's quantitative cognitive performance  
18 and development, which is to say their  
19 performance and growth in their schooling.

20 If you would like to review this paper,  
21 I have shared a link via e-mail to the  
22 organizer and can paste one in the comments as  
23 well.

24 I can also attest to this myself as a

1 teacher. The I-90 and I-94 corridor runs to  
2 the northeastern side of the Logan Square  
3 area, and I have seen for myself that in  
4 schools further away from these interstates  
5 and other major city roads, students are  
6 quicker to learn and work at a higher level in  
7 general than students at, for lack of a better  
8 word, dirtier schools, closer to higher motor  
9 traffic.

10 Right now, poor air quality is taking  
11 away from our children's ability to learn and  
12 their potential to succeed in education and  
13 contribute to Illinois's economic,  
14 technological, and cultural strength.

15 On a more personal note, my ability to  
16 make art and entertainment contributes to my  
17 community's culture, and my business's ability  
18 to generate and generate economic activity in  
19 Illinois both depend on the health of my  
20 lungs.

21 I work to keep my lungs healthy,  
22 ranging from doing breathing exercises, the  
23 same way an athlete trains their muscles, to  
24 avoiding smoking and smokers, but I can't



1 avoid breathing the air in my community.

2 With these things in mind, I would also  
3 like to speak to the costs air pollution  
4 creates as it is right now. Increased health  
5 care costs, quality of life, and economic  
6 impacts due to respiratory, circulatory, and  
7 other pollution-related illnesses are well  
8 documented. I'm sure the members of this  
9 board are well informed and don't need me to  
10 reiterate that.

11 I would like to add to that, though,  
12 just look at sales of high-performance HVAC  
13 filters, of HEPA air purifiers, even of indoor  
14 and outdoor plants, items which are widespread  
15 in homes, businesses, and schools in our  
16 state.

17 People of Illinois obviously want clean  
18 air, and we are obviously willing to pay for  
19 it, but all these things are cures for the  
20 problem that is air pollution, and again,  
21 transportation the single largest source of  
22 that problem in our state.

23 You know what they say about an ounce  
24 of prevention, right? Because the vehicle

1 standards and the omnibus in front of you  
2 right now are prevention, so I implore you to  
3 implement them.

4 Thank you for your time and for your  
5 consideration.

6 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
7 you so much.

8 I'm just noting that we are running a  
9 little ahead of schedule, so I'm just going to  
10 circle back to the 5:00 PM list.

11 Andy Daglas?

12 ANDY DAGLAS: Yes. Hello.

13 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

14 ANDY DAGLAS: Sorry I'm late.

15 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: No. No,  
16 you are right on time. We are running  
17 earlier. You can go ahead.

18 ANDY DAGLAS: Oh, good. Oh,  
19 gosh. All right. Thank you.

20 Honestly, I -- you know, I was going  
21 over the talking points and the materials and  
22 trying to think of, you know, a cogent way of  
23 expressing all that.

24 And all I kept coming back to in my

1 head was just the fact that we are watching  
2 every day as corporate greed and the felons  
3 they have put -- that it has put into power  
4 destroy our social fabric, destroy our civic  
5 infrastructure, destroy lives, end lives.

6 And look, we all know that air  
7 pollution is bad. We all know the horrors  
8 that every kind of pollution wreaks, not just  
9 in terms of directly poisoning people in  
10 communities that have been oppressed and  
11 underserved for their entire existence, but in  
12 terms of creating -- contributing to global  
13 climate change that is imperiling literally  
14 millions of lives everywhere, people who had  
15 nothing to do with it, all so that a small  
16 number of people can profit. And I'm just --  
17 I'm just so damn sick of it.

18 And I just -- the people on this call  
19 have -- the people on this board, excuse me,  
20 have such an opportunity to do some measure of  
21 good with the power of government that we have  
22 invested you with.

23 And look, I haven't been here for the  
24 whole hearing, so I don't know, but I imagine

1     there have been some corporate lobbyists in  
2     here, spewing the same shit that Trump and  
3     Musk and all of those other words that I  
4     probably shouldn't use in a public hearing do,  
5     too.

6             And quite frankly, the world is in the  
7     terrible state it is in because we have given  
8     people like that way too much power and way  
9     too much respect that they have not earned,  
10    and if you have any sense of public service  
11    and decency, you will tell those people to  
12    shove it up their asses and adopt the rules  
13    that will protect public health.

14            And who the hell cares what it's going  
15    to cost the people who have spent their entire  
16    careers and -- decades, costing our health and  
17    our environment and who knows how many lives  
18    just so they can make a buck?

19            Thank you.

20                    HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Thanks.

21            Next is Karen Fort.

22            And I'm just noting we are running a  
23    little bit early, so I'm just going to circle  
24    back to see if we have got anybody who we

1 missed.

2 Susan Mudd?

3 Sativa Volbrecht?

4 Angela Berglund?

5 Gloria Barrera?

6 Andrew Sloan?

7 William Reich?

8 Okay. We'll move on to the next group.

9 Lucy Contreras?

10 LUCY CONTRERAS: Yeah, I'm here.

11 Can you hear me okay?

12 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

13 LUCY CONTRERAS: Awesome.

14 Good afternoon, members of the Illinois  
15 Pollution Control Board. My name is Lucy  
16 Contreras, and I'm the Illinois community  
17 advocate for GreenLatinos, a national  
18 nonprofit of Latino leaders confronting  
19 environmental challenges impacting our  
20 communities.

21 I am here today to urge you to support  
22 the adoption of clean vehicle standards,  
23 specifically the ACT, ACC2, and HDO.

24 I grew up in Cicero, a predominantly

1 Latino community neighboring large industrial  
2 hubs. Like many families in environmental  
3 justice communities, my family and I were  
4 exposed daily to truck traffic and diesel  
5 pollution.

6 I always found it odd that so many  
7 people I knew had asthma, but now I have come  
8 to understand why. Communities like mine bear  
9 the brunt of transportation pollution, and  
10 it's taking a toll on our health.

11 Cicero's air quality ranks among the  
12 worst in Cook County, comparable to Little  
13 Village and the near north side of Chicago,  
14 and this is not a coincidence. Cicero is 88  
15 percent Latino, and the data is clear.

16 Black and Latino communities in  
17 Illinois breathe in more PM2.5 pollution than  
18 any other group, and specifically non-white  
19 individuals are exposed to 28 percent more  
20 pollution than the average American.

21 The results, higher rates of asthma,  
22 respiratory disease, and even premature death  
23 amongst our communities. And much of this  
24 pollution comes from the thousands of trucks

1 that drive through our neighborhoods every  
2 single day.

3 But we have the power to change this.  
4 The clean trucks standard you are considering  
5 today represent a monumental step towards  
6 environmental justice, a chance to reduce  
7 diesel emissions, improve air quality, and  
8 protect the health of communities that have  
9 long been ignored.

10 This issue is deeply personal.  
11 Families like mine should not have to  
12 sacrifice their health simply because of where  
13 they live, and you as the Board have a  
14 critical opportunity to protect vulnerable  
15 communities by adopting strong clean vehicle  
16 standards.

17 I urge you to stand with the families  
18 living in the shadow of diesel pollution and  
19 take bold action today. So please vote yes to  
20 adopt these standards. Our health and our  
21 future depend on it.

22 Thank you so much.

23 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
24 you so much.

1           Next, Maggie Bowman.

2                   MAGGIE BOWMAN:   Hi.   Can you hear  
3   me?

4                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Yes.

5                   MAGGIE BOWMAN:   Great.

6           Good afternoon.   My name is Maggie  
7   Bowman.   I am a Chicago resident and a member  
8   of the Edgewater Environmental Coalition.   I  
9   want to thank the Board for the opportunity to  
10   make public comment today.

11           I suffer from adult onset asthma, which  
12   my doctors have traced to environmental  
13   pollutants.   For the last 23 years, I have  
14   used a steroid inhaler daily to prevent  
15   chronic wheezing.

16           When I get a common cold, I often  
17   experience asthma exacerbations that will  
18   knock me off my feet for days.   On one  
19   occasion, I spent three days in the hospital.

20           The economic toll of this disease has  
21   piled up in the form of prescription drug  
22   costs, expensive health care, and lost days of  
23   work.

24           Last year, doctors determined that my



1 history -- excuse me -- has caused permanent  
2 damage in my lungs called bronchiectasis.  
3 This is a scarring effect on some of my  
4 airways that makes it more difficult for me to  
5 expel irritants and pathogens than the normal  
6 person, which in turn leads to greater risk of  
7 infection.

8 I'm currently battling a rare chronic  
9 lung condition that has resulted from both of  
10 these. The quality of the air I breathe every  
11 day has a direct impact on how my lungs work,  
12 whether or not they get inflamed or infected,  
13 and ultimately on how long I will live.

14 My choice to continue living in  
15 Illinois currently puts me at greater risk  
16 every day. Illinois ranks fifth among all  
17 states with the highest number of deaths from  
18 TM two point -- PM2.5 diesel engine pollution  
19 per capita in 2023.

20 Cook County, where I was born and live  
21 now, ranks in the top one percent of all U.S.  
22 counties at risk of the health, societal, and  
23 economic impacts caused by diesel fine  
24 particulate air pollution.

1           However, it doesn't have to be this  
2     way. We have an opportunity to make the air  
3     in our state cleaner, which will directly  
4     contribute to helping its citizens live  
5     healthier and more productive lives.

6           Three clean vehicle standards and rules  
7     have already been adopted in many other  
8     states: The Advanced Clean Trucks, the  
9     Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx rules, and Advanced  
10    Clean Cars 2.

11          Together, these rules reduce pollutants  
12    in the air, bring healthy -- bring health  
13    benefits to communities living in areas  
14    concentrated with diesel pollution, and bring  
15    more clean vehicles to the state.

16          I want to stay in Illinois. My family  
17    is here, my home is here, and it is the place  
18    I love the most in the country. However,  
19    unless air quality improves, I will be forced  
20    to leave and live somewhere with cleaner air.

21          I am asking you, members of the  
22    Pollution Control Board, to act in the best  
23    interest of our state and the people who live  
24    here. Please pass the clean vehicle standards

1 that will set Illinois on the path to a better  
2 future.

3 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
4 you so much.

5 Next is John Barzditis.

6 JOHN BARZDITIS: Okay. Thank  
7 you. Can you hear me?

8 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

9 JOHN BARZDITIS: Okay. Yes. My  
10 name is John Barzditis. I have lived my  
11 entire life on the northwest side of Chicago  
12 in the northwest suburbs.

13 [Interruption by the reporter.]

14 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh,  
15 excuse me. Mr. Barzditis, could you please  
16 speak up? Our court reporter can't hear you.

17 JOHN BARZDITIS: Okay. Sorry  
18 about that.

19 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: That's  
20 all right.

21 JOHN BARZDITIS: Yeah, I have  
22 lived my entire life on the northwest side and  
23 northwest suburbs of Chicago. I currently  
24 live near I-94, and I'm concerned about the

1 effects of vehicle pollution.

2 My mother lived in the same area and  
3 died from lung cancer, although I think,  
4 really, where I live is not that important or  
5 relevant, as pollution affects all equally.

6 Eliminating pollution is important to  
7 me, and clean vehicle standards can help  
8 achieve this. Air pollution created by cars  
9 and trucks is affecting the health of everyone  
10 in Illinois, and it's all from the climate  
11 increasing the frequency and severity of  
12 extreme weather events.

13 We need Illinois to set standards to  
14 protect the public health, because if  
15 manufacturers were left to do what they want,  
16 the pace of change would be much slower.  
17 Government action is needed to protect public  
18 health.

19 I ask the Board to adopt the  
20 regulations in the Advanced Clean Trucks,  
21 Heavy-Duty Low Nitrous Oxide Omnibus, and  
22 Advanced Clean Car -- Cars 2 rules, which are  
23 similar to regulations adopted in other  
24 states.

1           Air pollution causes lung cancer and  
2           increases the risk for heart disease, asthma,  
3           and other respiratory ailments.

4           The head of the International Agency  
5           for Research on Cancer has said we now know  
6           that outdoor air pollution is not only a major  
7           risk to health in general but it is also a  
8           leading environmental cause of cancer deaths.

9           It has been estimated that adoption of  
10          the Advanced Clean Trucks regulation would  
11          result in 500 fewer deaths and 600 fewer cases  
12          of childhood asthma per year in Illinois.

13          Cook County is in the top one percent  
14          of most-polluted counties in the United  
15          States, and 12 of Illinois's counties rank in  
16          the top nine percent, according to the  
17          Respiratory Health Association's "dirty dozen"  
18          report.

19          The American Lung Association grades  
20          Cook, Kane, Lake, Madison, and McHenry  
21          Counties as F for the sake of their air.

22          We know that trucks and buses are only  
23          seven percent of all vehicles, but account for  
24          67 percent of the nitrogen oxide emissions, 59

1 percent of particulate matter, and 36 percent  
2 of greenhouse gases.

3 We need regulations to promote the  
4 electric alternatives. Diesel exhaust is  
5 particularly noxious, because it contains  
6 large amounts of soot and known cancer-causing  
7 substances and nitrous oxide. The soot  
8 particles deposited in the lungs can cause  
9 cancer, asthma, and heart disease.

10 So in conclusion, I would ask you to  
11 please live up to your name and remember your  
12 mission statement, which I would paraphrase in  
13 part that it calls for the establishment of  
14 environmental standards and regulations that  
15 restore, protect, and enhance the quality of  
16 Illinois's environment.

17 Use your authority to act for the  
18 people of this state and protect the health of  
19 Illinois residents and combat climate change.

20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
22 you so much.

23 Next is Lena Reynolds.

24 Lena Reynolds? All right.

1 Neda Deylami?

2 Neda Deylami?

3 Okay. Just so everybody knows, I'll  
4 circle back to everyone that I called on that  
5 didn't appear at the end.

6 Next is Jane Cogie.

7 JANE COGIE: Yes. Thank you.

8 Yeah, I'm Jane Cogie, and since 1991 I  
9 have lived in Carbondale, southernmost  
10 Illinois. I'm a retired teacher and volunteer  
11 for several local nonprofits.

12 And I do want to thank you all on the  
13 Illinois Pollution Control Board for this  
14 chance to comment.

15 I'm here this evening to urge you, like  
16 I think others I have heard here, to adopt the  
17 clean car and truck standards. Adopting these  
18 standards now is crucial for the health of  
19 Illinois -- Illinoisans, our planet, and our  
20 economy.

21 Despite great support for clean power  
22 and jobs provided by the Climate and Equitable  
23 Jobs Act, Illinois is still -- still remains  
24 is seventh most polluting state in the nation,

1 and transportation, as you have heard others  
2 say, is now the highest source of CO2  
3 emissions.

4 Findings reported by Respiratory Health  
5 Association alert us to the alarming fact that  
6 eight Illinois counties rank among the top  
7 nine percent in the nation for toxic emissions  
8 from diesel engines.

9 Short-term health impacts from diesel  
10 pollution include irritation to eyes, nose,  
11 throat, coughing, nausea, headaches, and also  
12 less immediately visible long-term impacts,  
13 including lung cancer, bladder cancer, asthma  
14 attacks, and heart disease.

15 Indeed, a driving force in my deciding  
16 to comment this evening is my seeing firsthand  
17 the danger folks with asthma live with.

18 I had first become aware of this danger  
19 when witnessing the difficulty breathing of  
20 one of my daughters' friends. She experienced  
21 her having to be rushed to the hospital when  
22 her inhaler had run out or couldn't do its  
23 job. Pretty scary.

24 Studies have shown that adopting clean



1 vehicle standards would avoid approximately  
2 450 premature deaths and result in 260,000  
3 fewer pollution-related illnesses.

4 High emissions negatively impact not  
5 just our health but also the health of  
6 Illinois's economy. I don't have a lot of  
7 statistics on this, but certainly folks being  
8 sick themselves or needing to care for a  
9 family member translates into days away from  
10 work and lower productivity.

11 Also, illnesses, both short- and  
12 long-term, burden our public health system and  
13 contribute to ever-increasing costs for health  
14 care.

15 Illinois residents should not have to  
16 be burdened by the cost of toxins emitted by  
17 cars and trucks, especially since there's  
18 clean transportation options that are  
19 available and will help advance our fight to  
20 slow climate change.

21 Thus I'm urging you to adopt the clean  
22 car and truck standards, as other states have  
23 been wise enough to do, considering all of its  
24 citizens. Doing so will aid the transition to

1 zero emissions, a transition that will help  
2 benefit all Illinoisans.

3 So thank you for your time and for your  
4 consideration.

5 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
6 you so much.

7 JANE COGIE: You're welcome.

8 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Next is  
9 Barbara McKasson.

10 BARBARA MCKASSON: Right. I live  
11 in Carbondale, Illinois, and I'm a lifelong  
12 resident of Illinois.

13 In order to head off the more dangerous  
14 consequences of climate change, we must do all  
15 we can to cut our carbon emissions, so I  
16 strongly urge you to allow the State of  
17 Illinois to take advantage of the federal  
18 waiver to make our state vehicle emissions  
19 standards stricter than the federal standards.

20 My gravest concern is the fact that our  
21 country is not doing enough to curb climate  
22 change pollutants. We do not know all the  
23 tipping points for climate, nor how close we  
24 are to those tipping points, the weather

1 makers, to the point of no return.

2 In Makanda, Illinois, on May 8th, 2009,  
3 when our area experienced a derecho, otherwise  
4 known as an inland hurricane, we had never  
5 even heard of such a thing. The winds rose to  
6 over 100 miles per hour at ground level.

7 I was in our living room when I  
8 witnessed our large pin oak tree tip over and  
9 hit our deck and roof. We were then isolated  
10 without power for almost five days.

11 This would not have been such an  
12 extreme event were it not for the effects of  
13 climate change.

14 In June 2008, I helped host an energy  
15 fair just south of Murphysboro, Illinois.  
16 Unfortunately, the day of the fair, the  
17 National Weather Service issued a heat  
18 warning, since the heat index was over 100.

19 We persevered and held our fair anyway.  
20 My job was to make sure the speakers had  
21 everything they needed, so I rode around an  
22 electric vehicle all over the grounds. Even  
23 so, I started feeling close to fainting from  
24 the heat, and then went into heat exhaustion.

1           Fortunately, we had a standalone  
2     cooling recovery unit, so I was able to  
3     recover. However, because of this episode, I  
4     know that I am -- that I am now more  
5     susceptible to getting heat exhaustion and  
6     possibly heatstroke.

7           So I ask you, how will we be able to  
8     work outside in the ever-increasing heat,  
9     especially people whose job it is to maintain  
10    our roads and houses and do other outdoor  
11    jobs?

12           In this window of opportunity, I urge  
13    you to vote in favor of allowing Illinois to  
14    strengthen the state's standards to accelerate  
15    the transition to zero-emissions vehicle  
16    models.

17           Thank you.

18                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
19    you so much.

20           Next is Timothy French.

21           Timothy French?

22           And then Curtis Smith?

23           Curt Smith?

24           Okay. So we have had about maybe 12 or

1 15 people not show up, so if you'll indulge  
2 me, I'm just going to go through the list once  
3 more.

4 And the last batch was supposed to go  
5 at 5:45, so we'll stay online until 5:45. And  
6 I'll also e-mail everyone who signed up for  
7 public comment -- I'll e-mail you tomorrow  
8 morning with how you can submit written public  
9 comment to the Board.

10 So for anybody who missed out on today,  
11 they will be able to submit written comment.  
12 The Board weighs oral and written comment  
13 equally.

14 So I'm going to go back to the start  
15 and call on people that we missed.

16 Susan Mudd?

17 Sativa Volbrecht?

18 Angela Berglund?

19 Gloria Barrera?

20 Andrew Sloan?

21 Karen Fort?

22 William Reich?

23 Lena Reynolds?

24 Neda Deylami?

1 Timothy French?

2 And Curt Smith?

3 Okay. So if you'll indulge us, we'll  
4 just stay on the line. We'll be muted until  
5 5:45, and then we'll come back on at 5:45 and  
6 call on Timothy French and Curt Smith, who  
7 were scheduled for 5:45, and see if they are  
8 there.

9 Thank you all so much for contributing  
10 your public comment.

11 MS. ANGELA TIN: Someone is  
12 waving at you.

13 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: And  
14 again, I will e-mail everyone who signed up --

15 MS. ANGELA TIN: He is waving at  
16 you.

17 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: -- the  
18 directions for submitting written public  
19 comment tomorrow morning.

20 Thank you.

21 BARBARA MCKASSON: And what is  
22 the deadline?

23 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: It is --  
24 we set it today. I believe it is April 28th,

1 but I will e-mail that tomorrow morning.

2 HEARING OFFICER LEONI: There  
3 will also be a hearing officer order posted to  
4 the Board's website, which is open to the  
5 public. That sets the date that Vanessa just  
6 said, April 28th, for the close of  
7 post-hearing public comments. That is the end  
8 of the public comment period.

9 However, two weeks later is the  
10 deadline for responding to those comments. So  
11 if you wish to respond to a comment that was  
12 posted by April 28th, you may do so at that  
13 time. But comments on the rulemaking proposal  
14 are due April 28th.

15 You can submit those to the Board's  
16 clerk. His information is available on the  
17 Illinois Pollution Control Board website, and  
18 they will be filed to our Clerk's Office  
19 On-Line, or as we call it, COOL.

20 You can also mail them to the Board's  
21 physical address, which is also available  
22 online, and I'll list it here for you now. 60  
23 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630, in Chicago,  
24 Illinois, 60605.

1           Again, that's available on the Board's  
2 website and in each of the hearing officer  
3 orders.

4           HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   So we'll  
5 mute ourselves, and we'll be back on at 5:45.

6           Thank you -- oh.

7           HEARING OFFICER LEONI:   Unless --  
8 did I see somebody's hand up?

9           HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Oh, yes.

10          JANE COGIE:   Yeah.   I just -- I  
11 just wondered -- I'm presuming you would have  
12 said if it would be helpful for those of who  
13 did speak to send a written version of that,  
14 or is the audio sufficient?

15          HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   You  
16 may -- you may do either.   We have a court  
17 reporter here who has transcribed this entire  
18 public comment session, so that will be posted  
19 on our website, and it's what the Board  
20 considers as well.

21          It usually takes about 10 business days  
22 for the transcript to be posted, so you can  
23 check back as well.

24          HEARING OFFICER LEONI:   One note



1 on that. My apologies for not introducing the  
2 court reporter at the start of the public  
3 comment portion. Since this is just a  
4 continuation of the hearing that began this  
5 morning, I neglected to do so.

6 But yes, your comments have been  
7 captured, but as Vanessa said, you may submit  
8 them in writing as well.

9 JANE COGIE: Yeah. Yeah. No, I  
10 figured, but I just wanted to confirm. Thank  
11 you.

12 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Sounds  
13 good.

14 And I believe Lena Reynolds -- are you  
15 online?

16 LENA REYNOLDS: Yes, hello.

17 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.  
18 You can give your public comment if you wish.

19 LENA REYNOLDS: Okay. Great.  
20 Thank you. Thanks for having me.

21 My name is Lena Reynolds. I'm a  
22 communications and policy advocate with the  
23 Environmental Law and Policy Center, and ELPC  
24 supports Illinois adopting the three rules

1 under discussion today, Advanced Clean Trucks,  
2 Heavy-Duty Omnibus, and Advanced Clean Cars 2.

3 The ELPC has been engaged on clean air  
4 and transportation issues for decades, and we  
5 spent many years doing air quality monitoring  
6 with youth and community members.

7 Our findings mirror many of the  
8 concerns that have been raised today and  
9 yesterday by our partner and colleagues in the  
10 environmental and health spheres.

11 After analyzing two substantial data  
12 sets from ELPC's five-year handheld monitoring  
13 program, and from the Microsoft Research  
14 Project Eclipse's two-year stationary  
15 monitoring program, where air monitors were  
16 installed on bus stops across the city, we  
17 found air pollution especially high near  
18 highways, major arterial roads, and trains.

19 By the Kennedy, Eisenhower, Lake Shore  
20 Drive, Skyway, and especially Dan Ryan, air  
21 monitors consistently recorded medium levels  
22 of particulate matter 2.5, over 20 micrograms  
23 per square meter.

24 PM2.5 is the smallest category of said

1 pollution, which can bypass the body's natural  
2 defenses and is especially harmful for younger  
3 developing lungs and people with respiratory  
4 illnesses.

5 So studies have shown heavy truck  
6 traffic disproportionately affects the city's  
7 south and west sides, and especially lower  
8 income communities of color.

9 And, you know, heavy trucks, vehicles,  
10 there is a lot of new technology out there,  
11 and these rules could help Illinois with the  
12 shift much easier.

13 We have an opportunity to help clean up  
14 the air in our most burdened communities, and  
15 we can join lots of other states in  
16 implementing these forward-thinking rules that  
17 recognize the harms of pollution and the value  
18 of cutting-edge transportation technology.

19 So I just urge you to support Illinois  
20 adopting the Advanced Clean Trucks, Heavy-Duty  
21 Omnibus, and Advanced Clean Cars 2 rules.

22 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Thank  
23 you so much.

24 LENA REYNOLDS: Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: All  
2 right. So we'll mute ourselves until 5:45,  
3 and then we'll go one more time through  
4 everyone that we missed.

5 Thank you.

6 [A recess was taken.]

7 THE REPORTER: Back on the  
8 record.

9 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Hi,  
10 everyone. This is Vanessa Horton. So we are  
11 just -- I'm one of the hearing officers for  
12 this rulemaking.

13 So we are hopping back on just to  
14 finish up with people who we might have  
15 missed, and we were running a little bit  
16 early, so we are ahead of the 5:45 time.

17 So I'll just call on people I see here  
18 who were on the list.

19 Timothy French?

20 TIMOTHY FRENCH: Yes. Hello.  
21 Can you hear me?

22 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes.

23 TIMOTHY FRENCH: Oh, great.

24 Thank you.

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1           Good evening. Yes. My name is Tim  
2       French, and I'm speaking on behalf --

3           HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Oh,  
4       excuse me, Mr. French. Could you please speak  
5       up for the court reporter?

6           TIMOTHY FRENCH: Yeah. Hold on.

7           HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Thank  
8       you.

9           TIMOTHY FRENCH: Let me see.

10          All right. Is this a better volume?

11          HEARING OFFICER LEONI: A little  
12       bit. Let me move my computer.

13          TIMOTHY FRENCH: Okay.

14          HEARING OFFICER LEONI: Could you  
15       try turning up the volume and speaking up a  
16       little bit, please?

17          TIMOTHY FRENCH: I can.

18          HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Oh,  
19       that's great.

20          HEARING OFFICER LEONI: That's  
21       great.

22          PUBLIC COMMENTER: All right.  
23       Perfect. All right, so let me start again.

24          Good evening. My name is Tim French,

1 and I am speaking on behalf of the Truck and  
2 Engine Manufacturers Association, or EMA.

3 EMA has worked diligently to implement  
4 the ACT regulations in California. With  
5 respect to Illinois, however, the changing  
6 landscape for the ACT regulations has created  
7 a catch-22 that will effectively preclude the  
8 Illinois Pollution Control Board from  
9 enforcing or implementing the ACT regulations  
10 in Illinois, and I'll try to explain why.

11 As an initial matter, Section 177 of  
12 the Clean Air Act makes it clear that states  
13 can only implement and enforce California  
14 mobile source regulations for certain model  
15 years if, quote, such standards are identical  
16 to California's standards for which a waiver  
17 has been granted for such model years.

18 Here, that necessary condition  
19 precedent can no longer be met.

20 As I think you know, last year,  
21 Congress adopted two sets of substantive  
22 amendments to the ACT regulations.  
23 Significantly, once all the ACT amendments are  
24 fully final, it is our understanding that CARB

1 does not intend to submit those substantive  
2 amendments to EPA for a preemption waiver or  
3 for a determination that the amendments are  
4 within the scope of the prior waiver,  
5 specifically the waiver that EPA granted back  
6 in 2023.

7 CARB is rightly concerned that EPA,  
8 under the new Trump administration, would not  
9 grant or issue any additional preemption  
10 waiver.

11 Importantly, the CARB board resolution  
12 that finalized the ACT amendments, in its  
13 Resolution 24-5, it states explicitly that the  
14 executive officer shall forward the proposed  
15 amendments to EPA with a request for a  
16 preemption waiver or confirmation that the  
17 amendments are within the scope of an existing  
18 waiver.

19 The within-the-scope determination is  
20 something only EPA can do.

21 But now, given the change in  
22 administrations, CARB staff have not set any  
23 schedule or timetable for requesting a waiver,  
24 and it's likely they will refrain from doing

1 so.

2 So here's the catch-22 for Illinois and  
3 the IPCD -- or excuse me, IPCB.

4 The Pollution Control Board will need  
5 to adopt and implement all of the recent ACT  
6 amendments to ensure that Illinois's ACT  
7 regulations are identical to what California  
8 has done; but at the same time, the Pollution  
9 Control Board will be precluded from  
10 implementing and enforcing those amended ACT  
11 regulations, because as we understand it CARB  
12 will not be seeking and EPA will not be  
13 issuing any new preemption waiver or  
14 within-the-scope determination for the amended  
15 ACT regulations.

16 The net result is, because there won't  
17 be amended regs for which EPA has granted a  
18 waiver or within-the-scope determination,  
19 Illinois can't enforce those amendment  
20 regulations under Section 177.

21 Please consider that, because it's -- I  
22 mean, it's fundamental.

23 The other thing I should add is that as  
24 you consider this, we all need to be aware,



1 and perhaps you are, that the prior waivers  
2 for Omnibus, ACT, Advanced Clean Cars 2 --  
3 those prior waivers have been submitted to  
4 Congress for review and presumably voiding  
5 under the Congressional Review Act. That's  
6 going to happen very likely in April.

7 So you have got to factor all this in  
8 as you consider what the proponents are asking  
9 you to do. It's -- I'm afraid it's out of  
10 your hands at this point.

11 Anyway, thank you for the opportunity  
12 to submit these comments. We will follow up  
13 in writing before the deadline.

14 Thanks very much.

15 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Okay.  
16 Thank you.

17 Moving to Gloria Barrera.

18 GLORIA BARRERA: Hello. Is my  
19 audio okay?

20 HEARING OFFICER HORTON: Yes, we  
21 can hear you.

22 GLORIA BARRERA: Okay.  
23 Wonderful.

24 Good afternoon. My name is Gloria E.

1 Barrera, and I'm a nurse, a public health  
2 advocate, and founder of Nurse Heroes for  
3 Zero.

4 I am here just today because air  
5 pollution is a public health crisis that we  
6 can no longer ignore, as we know.

7 Every day I see the impacts of just  
8 poorer air quality on my patients,  
9 particularly in communities disproportionately  
10 burdened by pollution.

11 As a school nurse, I care for children  
12 with asthma who struggle to breathe, adults  
13 with chronic lung disease exacerbated by  
14 pollution, and my staff, and also just working  
15 with seniors whose health is compromised by  
16 continuous exposure to harmful emissions.

17 In Illinois, we know that 13 out of 23  
18 counties that report air quality data receive  
19 a failing grade in the American Lung  
20 Association's State of the Air report, and  
21 Cook County is in the top one percent of the  
22 most polluted counties in the nation.

23 Science is clear, and diesel exhaust  
24 and tailpipe pollution, we know that they are

1 toxic. They continue particulate matter and  
2 nitrogen oxides that increase the risk of  
3 asthma attacks, heart disease, cancer, and  
4 premature death.

5 Communities near highways where houses  
6 and industrial corridors -- disproportionately  
7 again, by low-income and communities of  
8 colors -- bear the heaviest burdens. And  
9 that's -- you know, a lot of times that's  
10 where many of my family members live and work.  
11 Those are the same communities.

12 The solution is very clear. Illinois  
13 must adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks and  
14 Heavy-Duty Low Omnibus (sic) rules to  
15 transition from dirty diesel vehicles to the  
16 clean zero-emission alternatives.

17 By doing so, Illinois can prevent  
18 hundreds of premature deaths and thousands of  
19 pollution-related illnesses, while also  
20 generating over \$168 billion in state economic  
21 benefits by 2040 and creating thousands of  
22 good-paying jobs.

23 So it's just not an environmental  
24 issue; it's really a public health emergency.

1           And strong clean vehicle policies will  
2   help save lives, reduce health care costs, and  
3   ensure that there is a healthier future for  
4   all people that live in Illinois.

5           So I do urge the Pollution Control  
6   Board to take swift action by adopting these  
7   critical clean air standards.

8           Thank you for your time and  
9   consideration.

10                   HEARING OFFICER HORTON:   Thank  
11   you so much.

12           So I'm just going to do one last call  
13   for anyone who we missed, and then we'll end  
14   the public comment portion.

15           Curt Smith?

16           Susan Mudd?

17           Sativa Volbrecht?

18           Angela Berglund?

19           Andrew Sloan?

20           Karen Fort?

21           William Reich?

22           And lastly, Neda Deylami?

23           Okay.   Thank you all so much for  
24   participating in the public comment portion of

1     this rulemaking hearing.

2             That concludes the public comment  
3     portion, and it concludes the hearing.  Thanks  
4     again.  Bye.

5                     [5:49 p.m.]

6

7                     [CONCLUSION OF DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.]

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C E R T I F I C A T E Page 178

I, Jude Arndt, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken stenographically by and before me on March 11, 2025, at the time and place hereinbefore set forth.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in this action.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jude Arndt", is written over a horizontal line.

JUDE ARNDT, CSR, CCR, RPR

CCR NO. 084-004847

CSR NO. 1450