

**From:** [Jeff Philips](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Don](#)  
**Cc:** [EXT Urbaszewski, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Comment on R24-17. Please adopt more protective clean vehicle standards!  
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My name is Jeff Philips. I serve on the board of directors of the [Respiratory Health Association](#) (RHA), but I am writing to you regarding R24-17 in my role as a dad of three young kids and as a lifelong resident of Illinois.

My youngest son has asthma, as do several other members of my extended family. We live within a few houses of a busy street where large trucks pollute the air with diesel fumes day and night. I notice that my son's coughing is made worse on days when he spends more time in proximity to busy roads. I am concerned about the health impacts of tailpipe emissions from trucking, but I also would like to see stricter standards for all vehicles that contribute to lower air quality. I am also concerned about how climate change will make this public health issue worse for myself and my loved ones, as it will lead to more heatwaves and wildfires.

We count on state and local government to do what is necessary to protect public health in Illinois and to lead the country in promoting policies that protect the environment. However, Illinois falling far, far short of this expectation. According to a recent report from the [RHA](#), with an average diesel PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of 0.309 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, Illinois' diesel engine pollution exposure levels are 21% greater than national levels of 0.255 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Diesel PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in Illinois reflect 1,019 tons per year of on-road engine air pollution and 2,476 tons per year of non-road engine air pollution. As a result, Illinois ranks fifth among all states with the highest number of deaths from PM<sub>2.5</sub> diesel engine pollution per capita in 2023.

Given the impact of this issue, I urge you to adopt more protective clean vehicle standards. Doing so would improve air quality and protect everyone's lungs from air pollution. Please take action today - it has life and death consequences for Illinois families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Philips  
La Grange, Illinois