

November 22, 2024

To: Illinois Pollution Control Board  
Attn: Don Brown, Clerk of the Board  
Re: R24-17

As a Pulmonary Advanced Practice Nurse working with persons living with chronic lung disorders, I strongly support adoption of R24-17 to reduce the harmful emissions from cars and trucks contributing to poor air quality in Illinois communities.

Air pollution is a major irritant to those burdened with lung disorders such as asthma, emphysema, COPD, lung cancer and interstitial lung disease. Unsafe air quality levels often force this vulnerable population to remain in their homes to avoid outdoor irritants. Exposure to increased ozone and other airborne irritants can trigger asthma and COPD flare ups often leading to emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and missed days of school or work.

Diesel trucks and buses are one of the leading causes of air pollution in Illinois. In fact, Cook County is in the top 1% of the most polluted counties in the U.S. Although buses, trucks, and delivery vans comprise only 7% of vehicles on our Illinois roadways, they account for 67% of smog pollution and 59% of particulate matter. Illinois communities consistently report failing air quality grades due to tail pipe pollution.

Adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) and the Heavy-Duty Low NOx Omnibus (HDO) rules would guarantee more clean trucks on our Illinois roadways. It is time for Illinois to align the state's clean air goals with those of the thirteen states and the District of Columbia who have already taken action to reduce the harmful emissions from cars and trucks.

As a healthcare professional, parent and taxpayer, I strongly urge Illinois legislators to adopt environmental rules to accelerate the sale of zero-emission electric cars and trucks by 2035.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Gronkiewicz APRN, ACNS-BC