

December 9, 2024
Illinois Pollution Control Board
60 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 630
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Comments in Support of Proposed Clean Car and Truck Standards (R2024-017)

My name is Dr. Brady Scott, and I am a respiratory therapist, professor, and program director of a Master of Science in Respiratory Care program in Chicago and Public Policy Committee Member for the American Lung Association in Illinois. We thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of adopting the proposed clean car and truck standards, which are critical to reducing air pollution in Illinois. The following comments are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of my employer.

Respiratory therapists are highly trained allied-health professionals who diagnose, treat, and prevent acute and chronic conditions affecting the cardiopulmonary system. Their education is both rigorous and diverse, enabling them to care for patients of all ages and with a wide variety of respiratory needs. During my 10+ years practicing in respiratory care prior to transitioning into higher education, I had the privilege of caring for patients with both acute and chronic respiratory conditions, experiences that shaped my understanding of the critical role prevention and air quality play in lung health.

Now, as an educator, I am dedicated to preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders who will work to ensure patients with lung diseases can live longer, healthier lives. On a personal note, having grown up in rural Appalachia, I have witnessed the profound impact of lung health disparities on low-income communities. As the son, grandson, and nephew of proud coal miners, I deeply respect their resilience and hard work. However, I also saw firsthand the devastating effects of poor air quality and occupational exposures, which left many struggling to breathe after long careers. These experiences have solidified my commitment to improving respiratory health and advocating for cleaner, healthier environments.

Given transportation continues to be a leading source of harmful air and climate emissions in Illinois, I support the adoption of the clean vehicle standards—the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT), Heavy-Duty Low-NOx Omnibus (HDO) and Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII)—because of the air quality and lung health benefits these standards will provide for my patients and the communities. Poor air quality increases the chances that acute health issues will arise, adding further to the burden for people with lung conditions and their families.

The American Lung Association [“Zeroing in on Healthy Air”](#) report found that policies supporting a transition to zero-emission transportation powered by a clean electric grid in Illinois could generate \$59.5 billion in public health benefits, 5,410 avoided deaths, 138,000 avoided asthma attacks, and 670,000 avoided lost workdays.

Air pollution affects the health of everyone, but is particularly harmful for children, seniors, and people with pre-existing conditions, and disproportionately impacts people with lower incomes and people of color who are more likely to live near transportation corridors. Ozone (“smog”) and particle (“soot”) pollutants can cause various respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses such as asthma attacks, worsening COPD, heart attacks, and strokes.

As a health professional, my colleagues and I must provide health care and education around the consequences of poor air quality. This means that we experience and are acutely aware of the immediate and long-term impacts of poor air quality. In our professional lives, we work to advise patients on options to mitigate exposure to poor air quality, which for some, might mean skipping a soccer game or avoiding playing in the playground closest to a family’s home.

I strongly support the request in the petition to adopt clean vehicle standards. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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