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From: [Carolyn Bido](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Cc: [Emilee Chaclas](#); [Melanie Minuche](#)
Subject: [External] R24-17 Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:52:50 AM

Good morning, Don,

My name is Carolyn Bidó and I work in electric vehicle policy. I am also a resident of Pilsen, where we are actively fighting the disproportionate impacts of dirty diesel trucks in our community. I thank the Illinois Pollution Control Board for providing the opportunity to address these rising concerns about the state of Illinois residents' health and safety in the face of ever-rising diesel pollution in predominantly black and brown communities.

My partner, Justin Flores, testified in December for the first hearing, sharing his daily struggles as an asthmatic. Since we have lived in Pilsen for the last 6-7 years, Justin has had to make frequent trips to Walgreens to refill his inhaler prescriptions due to our community's poor air quality. This is no surprise given the nearly **4,000 trucks and buses counted at the intersection of S Damen Ave & S Blue Island Ave over 24 hours**, demonstrated in the [Chicago Truck Count Data portal](#). Justin and I live 8 minutes from this intersection. We have had to resort to exercising outdoors and walking our dogs in other neighborhoods to ensure that we're breathing clean air. Still, I live under constant distress and anxiety that Justin may have an asthma attack and that I could potentially lose him any day.

There are over 9 schools in Pilsen, most of these elementary schools, and several daycare centers. I deeply fear for these children's health, especially those riding dirty diesel buses. There are several exhaustive [scientific studies](#) showcasing how diesel pollutants burrow into the lungs, causing inflammation, asthma, and a host of other respiratory illnesses impacting children more severely because their respiratory systems are still developing. In 2021 alone, **201,112 children ages 0-17 had asthma** according to the [CDC](#).

Communities of color should not have to bear the brunt of poor air quality from the trucking industry when there are policies like the **Advanced Clean Trucks, Advanced Clean Cars II and the Heavy-Duty Omnibus rules** that others states have already adopted and are actively benefitting from, as well as [data](#) showing that these rules can result in **reducing health-harming pollution like NOx by 90% in Illinois**.

Illinois is an environmental champion in the Midwest. We have ambitious policies like CEJA set in place that no other states have. We are one of the few states continuing our National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program regardless of recent federal executive orders to build out direct current fast chargers along highways, as well as electrification of our ports and electric school buses. Our vehicles are clearly already shifting to electric and the ACT, HDO and ACC2 rules will only **streamline goals already set in place by Governor Pritzker to reach one million EVs by 2030**.

I implore the Pollution Control Board to **sign into law the ACT, HDO and ACC2 rules for a safer, more just, and cleaner tomorrow for all Illinois residents**, including yourselves!

All the best,
Carolyn

