



Illinois Public Health Association

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April 28, 2025

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)

Dear Pollution Control Board Members:

I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), an Illinois nonprofit organization, established in 1940, which is the oldest and largest public health association in the State of Illinois. As one of the largest affiliates of the American Public Health Association, IPHA is widely recognized as a leader in the field of public health advocacy, health education and public health programming.

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. Public health significantly benefits from the adoption of clean vehicle standards, as they reduce air pollution and its associated health risks. These standards, particularly those focused on reducing emissions from fossil-fuel-burning vehicles, can lead to significant public health benefits, including decreased incidence of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, and premature deaths.

IPHA supports the adoption of the clean vehicle standards—the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT), Heavy-Duty Low-NOx Omnibus (HDO) and Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCI)—because of the air quality and lung health benefits these standards will provide for residents of all ages who live in our communities.

Transportation continues to be a leading source of harmful air and climate emissions in Illinois. The American Lung Association's "[State of the Air](#)" 2024 report found that five counties in Illinois received a an "F" grade and more than half of all counties with reported data received a "C" or lower grade for high ozone days. Heavy-duty transportation sources are disproportionate contributors to the poor air quality in Illinois.

Air pollution affects the health of everyone, but is particularly harmful for children, seniors, and people with pre-existing and chronic health 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

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various respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses such as asthma attacks, worsening
COPD, heart attacks, and strokes.

As health professionals, our members provide health care, educate the public about
public health issues, and advocate for policies which improve health and protect the
environment, including but not limited to 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.

Major disparities continue to exist in terms of access to clean air. The Lung Association's
State of the Air report found that 71% of people of color in Illinois live in counties with a
failing grade for ozone pollution, despite making up 41% of the population. 73% of those
experiencing poverty live in a county with a 'C' or below grade. These discrepancies are
driven by pollution in high-traffic corridors, in which nearby residents are more likely to be
exposed to harmful air pollution impacts, are more likely to have lower incomes, and be
people of color compared to the national population.

The Illinois Public Health Association and its members strongly support the request in the
petition to adopt clean vehicle standards to improve the health of Illinois residents in all
the places where they live, work and play. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Conny Moody

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Associate Executive Director for Operations
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Illinois Public Health Association

cc: IPHA Policy & Legislative Committee