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When Donald Trump was elected President, my one solace was that I live in Illinois where, as a friend put it, "the good guys are in charge." I am therefore disappointed and outraged that the Illinois EPA has submitted comments to you, the Illinois Pollution Control Board, falling in line with Mr. Trump's anti-environmental policies by opposing the Clean Vehicle Standards.

At a time when Gov. Pritzker is going around the nation, appearing everywhere telling people "I don't care why you are joining the fight. We just need everybody out there" and raging against "simpering timidity" in opposing Mr. Trump, I am appalled that his own IEPA has capitulated to Mr. Trump's pro-fossil fuel agenda.

The state of Illinois did not vote for Mr. Trump. When I attended a packed Illinois Pollution Control Board hearing on the Clean Vehicle Standards in Chicago, every single speaker spoke in favor of implementing the standards. Many people who cared enough to travel to Chicago to speak in favor of the standards did not get a chance to speak because so many people had come.

People testified movingly about the crippling damage that the well-known effects of car and truck pollution did to their health. I spoke about the headaches and nausea experienced by my high school students from diesel buses making it difficult for them to participate in sports and do their homework.

But people including myself also spoke about the opportunity we have in Illinois to make a long-term difference for the planet on climate change and end the needless excess cancer, heart and lung disease deaths caused by vehicle pollution. If you can find the courage to implement the Clean Vehicle Standards in Illinois, we will join eleven other states that have already implemented the standards. Eventually it will not matter that the current Administration favors fossil fuels. Car manufacturers will find it in their economic interest to create fuel efficient cars and trucks.

I urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to show leadership standing up to Mr. Trump by implementing the Clean Vehicle Standards.

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