

Testimony for Pollution Control Board Hearing on Clean Vehicle Standards, 12/2/2024

I am a physician, and at this point in my life, semi-retired. Herewith I am presenting a testimony as a member of the Sierra Club. We have a long-standing crisis of air pollution originating as far back as the Industrial Revolution. As we know, exposure to air pollution contributes to various lung diseases, including asthma, interstitial lung disease and cancer. As a physician, for many years I took care of newborn babies, so I saw many babies take their first breath. The bottom line is that clean air is essential for all human life.

In Illinois, trucks, buses and delivery vans pump out 67% of smog pollution, 59% of particulate matter and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation even though they make up only 7% of the vehicles on Illinois roads. Lighter vehicles are also a major source of harmful air pollution across Illinois, particularly when these vehicles sit in traffic jams day after day. As evidenced by scientists around the world, carbon dioxide produced by polluting vehicles is contributing to climate change.

We are proposing that Illinois adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) and Heavy-Duty Low-NOx Omnibus (HDO) rules and also the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCI) program to cut down on noxious emissions.

For a very long time our civilization has been fighting Nature, taking energy from Nature while giving back to her our excrement. Nature more and more is fighting back, fighting back against human beings and our world with natural disasters. As we can see, Nature is strong; so I am telling you, no matter how much human beings fight Nature with filth and poison, Nature is going to win. Nature will win this war unless as human beings, we make peace and clean up our act. Thank you.

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