

Response to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Proposed Clean Car and Truck Standards
Proposed 35 Illinois Administrative Code 242
From Teresa Wilmot, Individual
5/5/25

I am a concerned citizen of Rockford, Illinois. I bought a new Prius Hybrid in 2011 which I'm still driving, with 105,000 miles logged. If I were to buy a new car today, it would be an EV.

I am concerned about human caused climate change which puts life as we know it in jeopardy. I've studied a college level textbook, *Global Warming Science: A Quantitative Introduction to Climate Change and Its Consequences*, 2022, Princeton University Press. My conclusion to the current scientific research is that eliminating fossil fuel burning is the primary way to limit the devastating effects of climate change. While it is impossible to reduce the heat already pumped into our atmosphere, it is still possible to stop the temperature increase at some point, but every day we procrastinate makes that temperature point higher. *We humans may be the very cause of our own extinction.*

In my opinion, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, IEP, has been influenced by the federal EPA and the Trump administration to contest this proposed code change. There is no *scientific* reason to protest these rule changes. The science is clear: but the Trump administration refuses to accept science. The state of Illinois still believes in science and respects the opinions of its citizens, like me.

Is the Illinois General Assembly a better source for rules about clean cars and trucks?

In scanning the 70 pages of comments by the IEP, it appears that their argument is that the Illinois General Assembly is a better instrument for rule making than the Pollution Control Board. I disagree with their reasoning.

Members of the Illinois General Assembly are not subject experts on pollution nor on climate change caused by global warming. *Standards need to be proposed by subject experts, based on scientific research conclusions, not based on political opinions.* Climate change and the effects of it are already apparent; no logical person could ignore the increase in quantity and devastation of forest fires, the increase in flooding caused by greater rainfall in storms, or the increase in the number of days exceeding 100 degrees F. We are experiencing just a **taste** of what the future will bring.

Is it a good idea to base Illinois' standards on existing California standards?

California leads the country in regulations that improve our environment and our atmosphere. When California increases regulations on cars, manufacturers pay

attention. California's economy is the largest in the United States with \$4.103 trillion in GSP. If it were a country, it would rank fourth in the world behind Germany. Illinois is the fifth largest economy in the US with \$1.132 trillion in GSP. If California by itself can make an impact on car manufacturers, adding Illinois will increase that impact. Global warming caused by fossil fuel burning is such a daunting problem that it requires immediate action.

What if the federal administration is able to rescind the waivers granting California the right to preempt federal car and truck standards?

This has not happened yet, and will probably be appealed in courts. If both California and Illinois pass stricter standards, more courts will be opened up to litigation. Illinois is not afraid of standing up to authoritarian actions of the federal government. Only by fighting actions that harm citizens can the administration be forced to abide by the *rule of law*.

How do EV's limit pollution?

Limiting pollution is a method of decreasing human health hazards. Some by products are noxious gasses and particulates which cause breathing problems like asthma. But the increase of carbon dioxide fuels global warming which increases the number of days of high temperatures. Temperatures over 90 degrees F are dangerous for humans, especially those very young or very old. Temperatures over 100 degrees can be fatal. Since high temperatures are a health hazard, the carbon dioxide that increases them is a pollutant.

Summary

I think the role of the IPA is to protect Illinois citizens from atmospheric harm. The negative comments it has submitted does not protect me. I want the strong limits that have been proposed. Please listen to Illinois citizens rather than to a politically influenced agency.

Submitted by Ms Teresa Wilmot
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