

From: [Rachel Fredericks](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Docket R 2024-017 PC
Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025 10:03:47 AM

Dear Pollution Control Board members:

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to recently submitted comments by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding Docket R 2024-017 PC.

I'm an adjunct professor who teaches healthcare and environmental ethics classes, lives in Chicago, and is active in a number of mutual aid and volunteer projects around the city. I care deeply about the college students I serve, their futures, and the well-being of all the members of my community. I've structured my entire adult life around trying to understand our moral obligations to each other, trying to fulfill my own moral obligations to others, and trying to support others who care about doing the right thing in their particular circumstances.

So I was very frustrated and disappointed to hear that the Illinois EPA recently submitted comments to the Pollution Control Board arguing against the adoption of Clean Vehicle Standards. The proposed standards would save lives and substantially improve quality of life for all of us by lowering climate pollution, cleaning up our air, and increasing clean jobs. For example, in my neighborhood, I often see throngs of idling cars around when school starts and ends. I can see the exhaust billowing around the kids as they go into and out of the playgrounds and schools. I know that kids' exposure to those toxins builds up day after day for years, impacting their health for the rest of their lives. I know that those cars are also emitting invisible greenhouse gases, which contribute to the climate destabilization that is already making flooding in our neighborhood more common and will continue to get worse in the coming years.

I'm also upset that in their comments, the EPA repeated a number of short-sighted and misleading talking points advanced by industrial polluters, but ignored the cogent reasoning of hundreds of diverse people who submitted comments in support of Clean Vehicle Standards.

In my estimation, the Illinois EPA's recent comments about Clean Vehicle Standards demonstrate an utter failure to do what the agency exists to do: protect the environment. We all need clean air and water to live decent lives. We all benefit from access to a clean, stable, and beautiful natural environment. The existing regime of virtually unchecked pollution from huge numbers of internal combustion engines is incompatible with our long-term well-being. We need Clean Vehicle Standards for the future that we all want and deserve.

Moreover, the EPA is a public agency that exists to protect the environment *as a public service*. But the common good is not served when hundreds of concerned citizens from all walks of life spend their valuable time articulating a broad range of reasons in favor of Clean Vehicle Standards (relating to health, economics, natural beauty, and other goods), only to have their reasoning completely disregarded by an agency that is supposed to serve them. I find that profoundly disrespectful.

So, I urge the Pollution Control Board to take citizens' comments seriously and adopt the proposed Clean Vehicle Standards (despite what the Illinois EPA's comments).

Sincerely,
Rachel Fredericks, PhD