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I have read with interest the comments of the Illinois EPA along with some of the other comments recently submitted by opponents of the proposed rules. I will not attempt to rebut or dispute what the Illinois EPA says concerning the Illinois General Assembly being better situated to consider these rules, and issues of feasibility, enforcement, and implementation. I acknowledge that there is uncertainty in these areas and that consideration by the General Assembly would have been the preferred vehicle.

However, I also know that the harm caused by vehicle exhaust — specifically increased incidence of lung cancer, asthma, other respiratory ailments, and other health problems, and climate change, are significant and indisputable and need to be addressed aggressively now. This is the time for leadership and not delay and passivity and passing the buck to the General Assembly. Surely, to accelerate the use of electric vehicles, it is better to adopt these rules, with whatever flaws and uncertainties they may contain, than to do nothing. Use your authority for the good of the residents of Illinois.

John P. Barzditis