

From: [Michael Ondek](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Docket R 2024-017 PC
Date: Sunday, May 11, 2025 8:36:44 PM

Greetings,

My name is Michael Ondek, and I am a parishioner of St Walter's Church in Roselle, IL. I am writing in response to the comments provided by the IL EPA. Illinois' three most populous counties all have received failing or near-failing grades for air quality from the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report, and that since 2019, transportation has been the dirtiest sector in the state, surpassing coal. As a member of the Catholic Church, I am reminded of the words of Pope Francis: "If we took the planet's temperature, it will tell us that the Earth has a fever. And it is sick." And: "We must commit ourselves to ... the protection of nature, changing our personal and community habits."

The IL EPA did not give any strong comments on IL's failing grade on the breathability of our air. The comments were mostly a rejection of the IPCB's ability to properly control pollution. I think the IPCB is the perfect place to regulate pollution that is harming, and killing, the residents of IL everyday. Even if you believe the arguments of the IL EPA are correct about the legislature being the right place to require production of EVs, there is zero reason they should be against higher standards as proposed by the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Rule. The truth is, the IPCB should enact the ACCII, the ACT, and the HDO rules to protect the health of all Illinoisians, and the safety of everyone on the planet due to climate change.

The issue of clean air is very important to me. I have lost family members to lung cancer. I know there are many contributing factors for cancer, but having air that is rated by the American Lung Association as failing is surely one of those factors. The irritation and inflammation caused by particulate pollution also makes the final years and months of those with lung cancer more miserable. I also have current family members that have chronic, medical breathing issues and I have asthma and have a prescription inhaler. On bad air pollution days, mine and my family's health suffers, along with all of Illinois, and we can have acute medical issues because of the poor air quality.

According to the Respiratory Health Association, Illinois is disproportionately impacted by diesel pollution. Even though Illinois makes up 3.8% of the US population, Illinois represents 4.7% of the projected deaths due to diesel particulate matter pollution according to the Respiratory Health Association Dirty Dozen report. Cook County and Dupage County where I live, both rank in the top 1% worst of all US counties at risk of the health, societal, and economic impacts caused by diesel fine particle air pollution according to the same Dirty Dozen report. According to the American Lung Association, air pollution, including passenger vehicle tailpipe pollution and diesel engine pollution increase the risk for asthma, lung disease, and cancer.

There are three ways to help save me, my family, and my community from suffering under these current conditions and improve future generations health. The first way is to implement the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule. The ACT rule would require truck makers to sell an increasing percentage of zero emission trucks. This would allow Illinois to join 11 other states in improving air quality for its citizens and help slow global warming. The second way is to implement the Heavy-Duty Low-NOx (nitrous oxide) Omnibus (HDO) rule. The HDO rule will update standards, testing, and compliance for NOx and particulate matter emissions from new heavy-duty trucks. The third way is to implement the Advanced Clean Car II (ACCII) rule. THE ACCII rule will put Illinois on the path to 100% zero emission car sales by 2035. This would allow Illinois to join the 14 other states in improving air quality for its citizens and help slow global warming.

The air quality is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed. The people of Illinois, my community, my family, and I are suffering the health consequences of the air quality of Illinois caused by passenger vehicles and heavy-duty trucks. The ACT, HDO, and ACCII rules are all ways to help address this issue to improve the health of the people of Illinois and to save the world by slowing climate change. To make the matter even more urgent, the upcoming Trump administration will limit

environmental protections and thus harm the health of the people of Illinois even more. We know this is coming because of his first term in office and because he has told us already what his plans are for deregulation and to increase fossil fuel drilling and use. We need to be proactive in our state and join the states that have already implemented these rules to protect their citizens and improve the climate change situation.

You do not need to be revolutionary to help save the citizens of Illinois from chronic medical conditions and deaths caused by heavy diesel trucks and passenger vehicles exhaust. You only need to follow the good example set by of over a dozen states that have enacted similar measures already. My ask is simple. Illinois needs the IL Pollution Control Board to adopt the ACT, HDO, and ACCII rules to improve the health of every citizen of Illinois and protect our state from the threat of the federal government lowering their standards. So please help protect me, my family, my church, and my state from breathing polluted, poor-quality air caused by heavy duty trucks and passenger vehicles by adopting the ACT, HDO, and ACCII rules.

Sincerely,

Michael Ondek