



May 14, 2025

Illinois Pollution Control Board
60 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 630

Chicago, Illinois 60605

Responsive Comments on Proposed Clean Car and Truck Standards (R2024-017)

Dear members of the Pollution Control Board:

My name is Matt Siemer, and I am writing on behalf of Mobile Care Chicago, which is a not-for-profit organization that uses mobile medical clinics to assist children currently unable to access necessary specialty care for a chronic condition. We thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in response to comments submitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency on the adoption of proposed clean car and truck standards.

As part of our comprehensive Asthma relief program, our mobile clinics go directly into low-income communities to provide on-going medical support to low-income children with asthma, serving 125+ partner locations across Chicagoland. By addressing the social determinants of health (environment, access to care, social context, economic stability and access to education) in our communities, we can effectively address disparities in Asthma prevalence across Chicago neighborhoods.

We support the adoption of the clean vehicle standards—the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT), Heavy-Duty Low-NOx Omnibus (HDO) and Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCI)—because of the air quality and lung health benefits these standards will provide for community.

Transportation continues to be a leading source of harmful air and climate emissions in Illinois. The American Lung Association's "[State of the Air](#)" 2024 report found that five counties in Illinois received an "F" grade and more than half of all counties with reported data received a "C" or lower grade for high ozone days. Heavy-duty transportation sources are disproportionate contributors to the poor air quality in Illinois.

Air pollution affects the health of everyone, but is particularly harmful for children, seniors, and people with pre-existing conditions, and disproportionately impacts people with lower incomes and people of color who are more likely to live near transportation corridors. Ozone ("smog") and particle ("soot") pollutants can cause various respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses such as asthma attacks, worsening COPD, heart attacks, and strokes.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to diesel pollution. Proportionate to the size of their bodies, children breathe in larger amounts of air than adults, which means air pollution exposes them to higher concentrations of toxic chemicals. Unfortunately, this also means children are at increased risk of worse long-term health outcomes and school performance from exposure to diesel pollution.

Cleaner vehicle standards would entail a deeply positive quality of life improvement for children across Chicago and would help significantly boost our alleviation efforts. Given the above, I strongly support the request in the petition to adopt clean vehicle standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Siemer
Executive Director