

TO: The Illinois Pollution Control Board

RE: Case R24-17 Clean Car and Truck Standards: Proposed Section 35 Ill. Admin. Code 242

Sent via email to: Mr. Don Brown, Clerk of the Board don.brown@illinois.gov

To the Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

In my contacts in coalfield and other communities across Illinois and from my time living in Chicago and more recent visits there, I have heard, seen and breathed in a lot of reasons for the urgent need for clean car and truck standards. I recently had about an hour and half of walking along Illinois Route 127 through downtown Hillsboro, Montgomery County located south and east of Springfield. Breathing, hearing, and seeing the semi-trucks hauling coal out of town and some coming back into town for another load, made me wonder about the cumulated environmental and public health impacts. Seeing the kids playing basketball next to the highway and Moms walking toddlers or pushing a baby in stroller, and thinking about the years ahead this diesel truck traffic will continue is sobering to say the least.

Being in the southside neighborhoods of Peoria on a regular basis, and travelling on the main commuter and truck routes back and forth, make me wonder about the disparity the residents of this federally and state listed Environmental Justice (EJ) Area have daily. There are multiple listings in the U.S. EPA EJ health index for dangerous scores for air quality problems in Peoria's southside and tailpipe emissions have to be considered.

As an over 35 years volunteer on Illinois clean air and other issues, I strongly urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to approve the proposed standards to move our state to a healthier future, which also will have economic benefits and major environmental benefits.

Our society often sees improvements in options for products in response to demands. There are several battery electric semi-truck manufacturers that have EV semis that could travel the route from the CWLP coal power plant in Springfield to the Deer Run coal mine at the southeast side of Hillsboro. The distance is 53 miles one way. Recharge for a Freightliner battery electric semi reaches 80% in 90 minutes, which could be a stop for loading at one end or other of the trip. The Damera Corporation, a Canadian electric vehicle company, is the North American distributor of the Karsan eJEST minibus. They recently announced plans to build their first U.S. assembly plant in Peoria. Central Illinois already hosts the Rivian EV truck and car factory. I think clean car and truck standards could be an economic boost for our state.

Rural communities as well as urban locations would benefit from cleaner cars and trucks. If businesses in Illinois had a true environmental and environmental justice health index tied to business decisions at all levels, progress on clean air might happen faster but we do not have that. Fourteen states already have the Advanced Clean Cars II program. An Advanced Clean Trucks Rule has been adopted by eleven states. I hope the proposed standards will be approved so our state will have these health, life, and environment saving programs.

Sincerely,

Joyce Blumenshine