

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I urge the Environmental Protection Agency to abandon attempts to delay or weaken standards that reduce pollution from vehicles. Decades of research confirm that traffic pollution increases the risk of illness and premature death. People exposed to traffic pollution face greater risks of premature death due to heart disease and lung cancer. Exposure to traffic pollution can cause immediate harm, including causing asthma attacks, heart attacks, and strokes. Long-term exposure to traffic pollution also contributes to chronic disease, including asthma. Breathing traffic pollution is unhealthy for everyone, but kids face higher risks.

According to the American Lung Association's "State of the Air" 2026 report, half of the nation's kids live in counties with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Infants, children and teens as a group are more susceptible to the health impacts of air pollution. Their lungs are still developing, they breathe more air for their body size than adults, and they are frequently exposed to outdoor air. Families rely on EPA to protect their health and the health of their children. Delaying, rolling back or weakening standards that clean up pollution from the transportation sector is contrary to EPA's mission.

EPA must implement existing standards to curb ozone-forming nitrogen oxide emissions from new truck engines and to ensure that pollution controls remain functional over the course of the vehicle's life. Rolling back the package of protections will increase the substantial risk of health impacts caused by heavy-duty trucks, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes and premature death. Seventy-two million people across the U.S. are estimated to live near truck freight routes, putting their health at risk from traffic pollution. The more health-protective and durable existing rule is estimated to avoid 2,900 premature deaths, 18,000 childhood asthma cases and provide \$29 billion in annual health benefits.

When it comes to clean air standards, the benefits typically far outweigh the costs. The Clean Air Act gives EPA the authority to reduce air pollution from vehicles and the agency's number one pillar is to provide clean air for all. These efforts will do just the opposite – they will worsen air quality and lead to preventable death and disease. I urge EPA to abandon efforts to delay or weaken pollution standards for vehicles.

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