

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of Liz Scott
National Director, Advocacy, Healthy Air
American Lung Association
On
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles – Phase 3 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0985

May 2, 2023

Good morning. My name is Liz Scott and I'm the National Director of Advocacy for the American Lung Association's Healthy Air Campaign. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for allowing ample time for individuals to sign-up for this hearing. I'm here today to ask EPA to strengthen the greenhouse gas standards for heavy-duty vehicles even further.

I found my way into this work because I witnessed horrible smelling and looking pollution from transit buses while living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. What's worse, I only ever really noticed the pollution while I was in the areas of the city that were predominantly communities of color or low-income communities. If I was coughing and feeling gross after spending just a few hours in those neighborhoods, I couldn't imagine having to live with it on a daily basis. This blatant disparity motivated me to find ways I could help improve the lives of those facing these discriminations and why I'm particularly eager to give my comments today on behalf of the American Lung Association.

Heavy-duty vehicles like trucks and buses emit pollution that can harm health, they also emit pollution that is contributing to the climate crisis. In fact, the transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and heavy-duty vehicles are a big reason for that. Climate change is threatening our vision for a healthier future. It is leading to more catastrophic wildfires and flooding. It's making allergy seasons longer and more severe. It's also making air pollution worse which threatens the health of everyone but particularly the 34.1 million people with existing lung diseases in this country.

I am looking forward to the day where cities like Milwaukee are not overburdened with transportation pollution. And we can get there. A Lung Association report from 2022 found that a transition to zero-emission trucks, backed by zero-emission non-combustion electricity would create \$735 billion in public health benefits by 2050 due to cleaner air. That's real relief for the 72 million people who live near major trucking routes. EPA's proposal for phase 3 greenhouse gas standards for heavy-duty vehicles is a step in the right direction but must be strengthened to set the country on the path towards those billions of dollars in public health benefits.

I urge EPA to finalize a rule in 2023 that at least matches California's Advanced Clean Trucks program to greater deliver on clean air for everyone.

Thank you for your time today.