

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of **Melissa Ramos**
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On
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
California Waiver Hearing: Advanced Clean Trucks, Omnibus Low NOx, and HD Emission Warranty
Regulations

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Good morning my name is Melissa Ramos, I serve as the Clean Air Advocacy Manager with the American Lung Association speaking in strong support of the US Environmental Protection Agency granting California these cleaner truck waivers without delay to implement these critical public health policies.

As it has for over five decades, the Clean Air Act recognizes the unique challenges facing the people of California when it comes to unhealthy air pollution.

Cutting emissions from trucking and other heavy-duty vehicles is vital to improving public health, reducing health disparities, and reducing climate pollutants. This is true in California and in my home state, Nevada, looking to opt-in to these programs.

Again, we call on US EPA to grant these waivers immediately so that California and other states can move forward with these life-saving rules.

Transportation pollution is the dominant source of both climate pollution and smog-forming oxides of nitrogen. The trucking sector contributes heavy doses of air pollution that threatens health, despite trucks making up a small percentage of the on-road vehicle population.

According to the American Lung Association's 2022 "State of the Air" report, over 4 in 10 Americans – 137 million people – now live in a community impacted by unhealthy air quality.

In Nevada, 94% of residents are breathing in unhealthy levels of air pollution, we are depending on these cleaner truck waivers so we also can use Clean Air Act authority to protect residents from the health harms of air pollutants.

The California Low NOx Omnibus and Warranty rules and zero-emission vehicle rules like the Advanced Clean Truck standards – include the transition to zero-emission technologies and require cleaner combustion engines with more durable emission controls. Combined these rules will provide massive benefits to regional air quality and deliver cleaner, healthier air to environmental justice communities overburdened by truck traffic today.

American Lung Association research highlights that the nationwide transition to zero-emission transportation and electricity, including medium- and heavy-duty vehicles included in several of these policies, could yield over \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits cumulatively by 2050.

This includes 110,000 lives saved, nearly 3 million asthma attacks avoided and over 13 million lost workdays avoided due to cleaner air. We strongly support EPA approving these waivers to ensure progress is made to achieving these benefits as more states adopt the California rules.

The Lung Association's *Zeroing in on Healthy Air* estimates that Nevada could experience \$7.5 billion public health benefits through the shift to zero-emission technologies. Further, more states continue to line up to opt-in to these life-saving rules and expanding the benefits to residents throughout the United States.

Nevada has made incredible strides to clean up our transportation sector. Last year we became the 16th Clean Cars state, and earlier this year our governor took the next step in signing the Multi-State MOU on Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles (MHDV) to clean up the next generation of trucks.

Health organizations, doctors, and nurses have been voicing support for stronger protections against a harmful mix of tailpipe pollutants and to also see zero emission technologies expand in Nevada.

We are seeing our residents continue to suffer from worsened asthma attacks, longer allergy seasons, and other respiratory illnesses keeping children from school and parents from work.

Exposure to air pollution from traffic, especially in trucking corridors, worsens respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms making Nevadans much more likely to cough, wheeze, and sneeze.

In Nevada, we are eager to see the implementation of cleaner trucking rules to ensure our citizens enjoy the benefits of cleaner engines and zero-emission technologies. We are committed to pushing Nevada to act on these rules so that all of our residents breathe healthier air.

The transition to zero-emission transportation is a crucial step in meeting clean air and climate standards, along with ensuring combustion vehicles are required to clean up and required to perform to stronger standards over their full useful life.

In closing, we urge EPA to grant the waivers without delay to ensure the air quality, public health and environmental justice benefits of these rules follow.