



May 12, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

As national health, medical and nursing organizations, we urge you to set strong, ambitious pollution standards for buses and trucks with a goal of achieving a zero-emission trucking sector by 2040. For the nation to achieve your vision of clean air, a safe climate, healthy communities and environmental justice, we must address emissions from heavy-duty vehicles.

Americans' health is at risk now from harmful air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions. Air pollution can harm everyone's health, but some groups are more at risk, like children, pregnant people, the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. We call on your Administration to set a national standard for trucks that achieves the equivalent of a 90% reduction in nitrogen oxide (NOx) over the current standard, while also supporting states across the country going further than what the current or future national standards requires. A combination of federal and state actions will be necessary to ensure clean air for all.

We encourage your Administration to place a significant focus on securing real-world air quality benefits through more stringent combustion standards as well as by updating in-use compliance, improving durability and extending emission control warranties to ensure controls perform as intended throughout the full life of the truck. Trucks should be certified and regularly tested to show that they are meeting emissions standards in all operating conditions – including cold starts, low-load driving and idling. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should work closely with state and local agencies to enforce compliance with these emissions control technologies and deter tampering of control systems.

Further, to protect health, we call on you to take immediate steps to foster the transition to electric heavy-duty vehicles – including medium- and heavy-duty trucks, transit and school buses, off-road

equipment, and marine and freight operations – as rapidly as possible to achieve further air, climate and health benefits.

Finally, in addition to utilizing current technologies while investing in zero-emission technology, we urge your Administration to formally withdraw the previous Administration's efforts to reopen the glider truck loophole and curtail the practice of pushing old polluting engines into new truck bodies. A single glider truck can produce pollution equivalent to 450 new trucks.¹ Bold action to address emissions from the heavy-duty vehicle sector is an opportunity to permanently close this glider truck loophole.

Millions of Americans face adverse physical and mental health effects in large part due to air pollution from heavy-duty vehicles, and many of our lowest income communities and communities of color bear disproportionate burdens due to heavy duty transportation hotspots. The undersigned organizations urge swift action to reduce emissions from this sector to provide immediate health benefits as well as making the investments in the technology and infrastructure needed to support a rapid transition to electric trucks and buses.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Psychological Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Climate for Health
Health Care Without Harm
International Society for Environmental Epidemiology -- North American Chapter
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Public Health Institute

¹ California Air Resources Board "California's top air agency strongly condemns EPA's move to allow high-polluting, older trucks on roads" December 4, 2017. RELEASE NUMBER 17-70