



July 27, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

The American Lung Association strongly supports the Clean Air Act and the success the landmark law has achieved over its fifty plus years. The air we breathe is much cleaner today than it was before Congress came together to pass this bipartisan law. The transportation sector is a major contributor to air pollution. The nation must continue to use the tools of the Clean Air Act to further transition the sector to cleaner, healthier vehicles – not see those tools blocked, weakened or delayed. Bills under consideration in today’s hearing would dismantle Clean Air Act requirements to set vehicle pollution standards that protect health.

H.R. 4468 would prohibit EPA from finalizing and implementing a rule that will reduce 15,000 tons of particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) and 66,000 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The reductions in PM_{2.5} alone are estimated to amount to between \$63-280 billion in health benefits. The rule would also eliminate around 7.3 billion metric tons of carbon pollution. These emissions of greenhouse gases are warming the climate and contributing to this summer’s devastating instances of flooding, wildfire smoke and excessive heat.

H.R. 1435 would weaken the provision of the Clean Air Act that gives California the authority to set stronger vehicle emissions standards and other states the ability to adopt those standards. The Lung Association strongly supports California’s pollution control authority. California faces extraordinary conditions when it comes to air pollution. That unique position was affirmed when the Clean Air Act passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in 1970 with the inclusion of a section allowing California to set standards that went beyond federal protections. This partnership between California and the federal government has continued through both Republican and Democratic administrations to achieve cleaner air not only in California but nationwide. Undermining that partnership with this legislation would reverse clean air progress and threaten public health.

The most recent “State of the Air” report from the American Lung Association noted that approximately 120 million Americans live in communities impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone and/or PM_{2.5}. Exposure to air pollution can contribute to asthma attacks, heart attacks and stroke,

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lung cancer, low birthweight and premature birth and premature death.¹ Traffic pollution is specifically associated with premature death due to cardiovascular disease, lung cancer death, asthma onset in children and adults and other negative health outcomes.² The transportation sector is also the leading source of climate pollution in the United States. Climate impacts on health include degraded air and water quality, increases in vector-borne diseases, mental health impacts and more.³ A rapid transition to zero-emission technologies is urgently needed to ensure cleaner air and to reverse course on climate change.

The American Lung Association's recent "Driving to Clean Air" report highlighted that approaching a 100 percent zero-emissions sales of light- and medium-duty vehicles scenario by 2035, along with a non-combustion electricity grid, could result in major health benefits. The report found that the cumulative health benefits could reach \$978 billion by 2050, including nearly 90,000 premature deaths avoided, over 2 million asthma attacks avoided and more than 10 million lost workdays avoided due to cleaner air.⁴ Prohibiting progress towards a zero-emission transportation sector is therefore not only a threat to innovation and economic opportunity, it is also a threat to health.

The American Lung Association opposes these bills and urge the Committee to reject these and other attempts to weaken the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

¹ Health Effects Institute. "Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Selected Health Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution." Special Report 23: 2022.

² Health Effects Institute. "Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Selected Health Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution." Special Report 23: 2022.

³ USGCRP. Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. 2018.

⁴ American Lung Association. "Driving to Clean Air." June 2023. <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/electricvehicle-report/driving-to-clean-air>