

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

**Docket: EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0257**

**June 2, 2021 Public Hearing on EPA's Reconsideration  
of Previous Administration's Withdrawal of California's Waiver to Enforce  
Advanced Clean Cars Standards**

**Testimony of Diana Van Vleet, National Director of Outreach & Engagement,  
Healthy Air  
American Lung Association**

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Diana Van Vleet, and I am the National Director of Outreach and Engagement for the American Lung Association's Healthy Air Campaign.

The American Lung Association strongly supports the EPA's proposal to restore California's authority to enforce greenhouse gas pollution standards.

Climate change is a health emergency. In order to prevent the worst health impacts of climate change, EPA and states must use all available tools to address climate change. Addressing pollution from the transportation sector is non-negotiable, as the transportation sector is the leading source of carbon emissions and of ozone- and particle-forming emissions of oxides of nitrogen. Taking away states' right to protect the health of their residents would make no sense, and would constitute a huge step backwards in a climate fight where time is not on our side. Restoring state authority to set more protective vehicle standards is a key step to protecting public health and the environment.

We know that air pollution and climate change harm health and take lives. The American Lung Association's 2021 "State of the Air" report found that more than 4 in 10 Americans live in counties with unhealthy air, and climate change is making air quality worse.

Everyone has a reason to care about climate change and air pollution. As someone who has had Lyme Disease and known many others whose lives have been devastated by the impacts of Lyme Disease, I am terrified of the increased risks associated with vector-borne diseases that climate change brings. As a runner and biker who lives in a city that experiences unhealthy air days, I am concerned about how breathing unhealthy air might be harming my lungs and my health.

While everyone is at risk from breathing air pollution, the burden isn't evenly shared. Our report also found that people of color are over three times more likely to live in the most polluted counties than white people.

Reducing transportation pollution is so important in the fight to clean up air pollution and address climate change, and states' authority to set stronger standards is an essential and necessary tool.

I urge EPA to quickly finalize this proposal and restore California's Advanced Clean Cars authority. The ability of states to follow stronger standards to reduce vehicle pollution is vital when it comes to safeguarding public health.

Additionally, I urge EPA to transition quickly to working closely with California and other states to develop the strongest possible future standards to significantly reduce all harmful pollutants. The administration must lead and advance the transition to zero-emission vehicles powered by clean, non-combustion renewable electricity. The American Lung Association's "Road to Clean Air" report found that transitioning to electric vehicles, powered by more renewable energy, would save 6,300 lives, prevent tens of thousands of asthma attacks and avoid tens of billions of dollars in health costs.