

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to immediately restore California's Clean Air Act authority to enact more health-protective standards for passenger vehicles and light trucks, and other states' ability to follow those stricter standards.

Currently, the transportation sector is the United States' largest source of carbon pollution. Carbon pollution contributes to climate change, which degrades air quality and makes extreme weather events, such as flooding, drought, heatwaves and wildfires, more intense and frequent. Health consequences of unhealthy air include shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing and pulmonary inflammation, which pose serious threats to all Americans, especially children, older adults, low-income communities, communities of color and people living with chronic diseases.

In order to avoid the worst health impacts of climate change, the nation must take strong, immediate action to reduce pollution. Lowering transportation emissions is a key component of that action. The ability for states to set stronger standards under the Clean Air Act to protect their residents from pollution is a tool that has played an important role in reducing harmful emissions nationwide.

We urge EPA to quickly restore states' authority to enact more protective motor vehicle pollution standards. Beyond restoring California's waiver for greenhouse gases and zero emission vehicle standards, we also call on the agency to work quickly to set strong, ambitious greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant standards for cars, light trucks and SUVs and accelerate the full transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Sincerely,

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