

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of Diana Van Vleet
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On
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Proposed Rule to Revise Existing National
GHG Emissions Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks Through Model Year
2026

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0208

Good morning, 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. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

First off, I'd like to express my thanks to President Biden and his administration for acknowledging the importance of tackling climate pollution from transportation. This proposal and the broader actions on clean cars from the administration are a meaningful step in the right direction, but we need the strongest possible cleaner cars standards to truly make good on President Biden's commitments on climate action and environmental justice. We call on you to maximize the benefits of these standards for health, avoid loopholes or credit schemes that would leave health benefits on the table, and finalize them into law this year.

The need for action on climate change could not be more urgent. Earlier this month, a report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that there is an extremely narrow window of time to act on climate change, after which point the worst impacts will be unavoidable. Climate change is a public health emergency, and the sooner we act, the more lives we will save.

Strong standards for cars are a critical step needed to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, such standards are very popular. I want to emphasize this important point – Americans want cleaner cars.

In June, the American Lung Association released [a poll](#) showing that 74% of American voters supported the federal government setting stronger standards on tailpipe emissions from passenger cars and trucks, with the amount of emissions allowed declining over time.

Here are some more findings from that poll:

- 72% of voters agreed that the nation should make significant investments in zero-emission vehicles as part of efforts to rebuild the economy
- 70% of voters support the federal government advancing policies to encourage a nationwide transition to electric vehicles, AND

- 70% of voters support the federal government requiring that by 2040 all new freight trucks, buses and delivery vans sold in the U.S. must produce zero tailpipe emissions

The bottom line? Americans across the political spectrum support specific policies to achieve a pollution-free transportation future.

We must take action at every level to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to protect health and save lives – and that includes cleaning up transportation pollution using the strongest possible standards.

Climate change poses unprecedented threats to the health of every American – now and for every future generation. There is no time to delay. The Biden Administration must use all available tools to promote the climate pollution reductions we so desperately need.

Please make this proposal as beneficial for health as possible and finalize it quickly, and then move forward with bold future greenhouse gas standards for light- and heavy-duty vehicles that accelerate the critical transition to zero-emission vehicles. Thank you.