

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of Liz. A.M. Scott
National Director, Advocacy, Healthy Air
American Lung Association
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 afternoon. My name is Liz Scott and I'm speaking to you today on behalf of the American Lung Association and the millions of lung health patients that deserve cleaner air.

I want to quickly say that I appreciate that EPA is moving forward with undoing the rollback of greenhouse gas standards for light-duty vehicles that occurred in the previous Administration. As my colleagues have noted here today, we are calling on EPA to finalize this rule this year and to make sure it maximizes the health benefits and emissions reductions. The final standards must not include loopholes that result in emissions reductions on paper that don't end up benefitting public health in practice.

I want to spend the remainder of my short time today talking about the responsibility EPA has to protect and improve public health by setting even stronger standards in the future. The standards under this rule are a necessary step but are limited to model years 2023 to 2026. We need to see more health protective standards beyond that.

In the Executive Order on Strengthening American Leadership in Clean Cars and Trucks, the President directed EPA to establish new multi-pollutant emissions standards for light- and medium-duty vehicles covering model years 2026 to 2030. Setting up more protective standards now will ensure that the nation is on track to meet the President's goal of having 50% of all new passenger vehicles be zero-emission in 2030. We encourage EPA to move quickly to finalize this current rule and begin the process of future standards without delay.

Pollution from cars is helping to drive climate change, which can lead to more excessive heat like what we've seen across the country – and the globe – in recent months and the rise in intensity of extreme weather events and wildfires. Setting strong greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and light trucks is only part of the solution towards a healthier future. A report released by the American Lung Association in September of 2020 found that transitioning the nation to electric light- and heavy-duty vehicles – powered by non-combustion renewable energy – would lead to \$113 billion in climate benefits annually by 2050.

And greenhouse gases are not the only pollutant released by tailpipes. Air pollutants released from cars contribute to ozone and particulate matter pollution, which both have direct health impacts, particularly for vulnerable populations like those with an existing lung disease. Our "Road to Clean Air" report also found that a transition to electric vehicles would yield \$72 billion in health benefits annually by 2050.

To sum up my remarks to you today, we appreciate that this Administration is reversing the rollback of greenhouse gas standards for light-duty vehicles and call on you to finalize these standards this year, ensuring they maximize the benefits to health. Further, we urge EPA to prioritize setting strong light-

duty standards for model years 2026 to 2030, plus heavy-duty vehicle standards, that drive the nationwide transition to zero-emission vehicles. We also will never pass up an opportunity to call for the support of transitioning the transportation sector to electric vehicles as soon as possible to set the nation on a path towards a healthier future.

Thank you for your time.