

As Prepared for Delivery

Comments of Diana Van Vleet
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On

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR- 2019-0055

April 12, 2022

Good morning, my name is Diana Van Vleet, and I am the National Director of Outreach & Engagement for the American Lung Association's Healthy Air Campaign. Thank you for conducting this hearing, providing more time for the public to sign up prior to the hearing and adding an additional day to hear public testimony.

The American Lung Association strongly supports the cleanup of pollution from heavy duty engines and vehicles. We urge EPA to finalize the rule this year, and to choose option number 1 from the proposal when promulgating the final rules to maximize the benefits for public health. This rule isn't just about reducing air pollution, it's also about advancing environmental justice. Seventy-two million people are estimated to live near truck freight routes, and this puts their health at risk. They are more likely to be people of color and those with lower incomes. These overburdened communities are directly exposed to pollution that causes respiratory and cardiovascular problems, among other serious and costly health effects.

We know that air pollution from shipping has likely gotten worse in recent years: The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift from in-store shopping to ordering items online. More fast, personalized delivery service means more delivery trucks and vans on neighborhood streets, supported by a rising number of warehouses, distribution centers and long-distance haulers on highways often located in or near already highly-polluted communities. Increased traffic in and out of these areas brings increased levels of unhealthy air pollution to the communities where this traffic is concentrated.

Exposure to traffic-related pollution is a serious health hazard for those living in freight-impacted communities. The mixture of emissions has been linked to poor birth outcomes, reduced lung and cognitive development, development and worsening of chronic respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, increased risk of dementia, cancer and early death.

Thankfully, EPA has the opportunity to do something about this right now. Please strengthen limits of NOx emissions as well as greenhouse gases from heavy-duty engines and heavy-duty vehicles. The agency must finalize this proposal by 2022 and maximize the health benefits it offers by selecting option 1 and strengthening it, including extending the warranty requirements and useful life provisions in the rules. Every American deserves to breathe clean, healthy air regardless of their zip code or their skin color. Thank you for your leadership and work to reduce dangerous air pollution from trucks.