

**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 Will Barrett, Director of Clean Air Advocacy
American Lung Association in California**

My name is Will Barrett, I'm the Director of Clean Air Advocacy with the American Lung Association based in Sacramento, California.

The American Lung Association is in strong support of the U.S. EPA's proposed reconsideration of the unfounded revocation of California's Advanced Clean Cars waiver. My colleagues have shared information on the health impacts of pollution from vehicles and the nationwide gains we've made in cleaning up the air thanks to California's authority. I'm going to focus my comments today on the continued need in California for stronger standards.

Using its Clean Air Act authority, California has made significant progress in cleaning up the air. Continued clean air progress, esp. in the face of climate change, depends on the availability and utilization of the full suite of Clean Air Act tools to protect health.

California faces compelling and extraordinary air pollution challenges, and climate change is making the job of cleaning the air here more difficult. The more health-protective standards designed and implemented in California are needed, and must be restored immediately.

The American Lung Association's *State of the Air* 2021 report found that California cities continue to dominate the lists of the most polluted in the nation.

- Seven of the ten most ozone-polluted cities in the United States are in California, including Sacramento where my family lives.
- For particle pollution, six of the ten most polluted cities in the US are in California.
- Eight California cities appear on all three of our report's most polluted cities lists.

The impacts of climate change are on stark display in California. Last year, we saw significant ozone challenges with record heat, we had the worst wildfires on record and are seeing increased wildfire activity already this year. In addition to extreme drought,

much of Central CA is currently under an excessive heat warning and have already seen over 2,800 wildfires incidents so far this year across California, far more than this time last year.

The transportation sector is responsible for half of the carbon pollution in California, and approximately 80 percent of ozone- and particle-forming NOx emissions.

EPA must restore California's Advanced Clean Cars waiver to ensure the strongest possible tools are available to protect public health in the face of urgent health crises resulting from air pollution and climate change.

California must be allowed to use its Clean Air Act authority to implement vehicle pollution controls, and all states must have the option to follow those more protective standards to protect the health of their residents.

From our *State of the Air* report, we see widespread air pollution challenges across the nation, and evidence of climate change continues to grow.

In the best interest of public health, we support U.S. EPA moving to quickly reverse the inappropriate revocation of state authority and allow states the full complement of tools available to protect their citizens from transportation pollution.

We further urge the agency to transition quickly to working closely with California and the states to develop the strongest possible future standards to significantly reduce all harmful pollutants.

We also urge U.S. EPA to restore lost emission benefits caused by the previous administration's actions.

Lastly, we call on U.S. EPA to work with the Biden Administration to facilitate the rapid and widespread deployment of zero-emission transportation coupled with non-combustion renewable energy.