

**As Prepared for Delivery**  
Comments of Liz. A.M. Scott  
National Director, Advocacy, Healthy Air  
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On

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Proposed Rule:  
Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Model Years 2024-2026 Passenger Cars and  
Light Trucks  
Docket ID No. NHTSA-2021-0053

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 patients with lung disease that deserve cleaner air.

I want to start by saying that I appreciate that NHTSA is moving forward with strengthening fuel efficiency standards for passenger cars and light trucks. As my colleagues have noted here today, we are calling on NHTSA to quickly finalize this rule and to make sure it maximizes the health benefits and emissions reductions without loopholes that don't benefit public health. We support standards at least as strong as Alternative 3.

I want to spend the remainder of my short time today talking to NHTSA's responsibility to protect and improve public health by setting even stronger fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks in the future. The standards under this rule are a necessary first step, but they are just a first step. We need to see more health protective standards in the future if we are to meet the goal of having 50% of all new passenger vehicles be zero-emission in 2030.

Pollution from cars and trucks is helping to drive climate change, which can lead to more excessive heat like what we saw across the country – and the globe – this summer, more frequent extreme weather events and intensified wildfires. Pollutants released from cars and trucks can also contribute to ozone and particle pollution, causing direct health impacts particularly for vulnerable populations like those with an existing lung disease. A report released by the American Lung Association in September of 2020 found that transitioning to electric light- and heavy-duty vehicles – increasingly powered by non-combustion renewable energy – would lead to \$113 billion in climate benefits and \$72 billion in health benefits annually by 2050.

To sum up my remarks to you today, I appreciate that this Administration is strengthening fuel efficiency standards that were weakened in the previous Administration. I call on you to finalize them this year and to opt for standards that are at least as strong as Alternative 3. Further, we ask for stronger standards into the future to help drive the nation towards zero-emission vehicles as soon as possible to set the nation on a path towards a healthier future.

Thank you for your time.