



August 4, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
 Administrator
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

As health organizations, we represent physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, public health and health care professionals, health scientists and researchers, patients and advocates all dedicated to promoting health and saving lives. Climate change is a health emergency, and the transition to a zero-emission transportation sector is a critical step needed to safeguard health from the worst impacts of climate change. We urge you to move quickly to propose and finalize strong cleaner cars standards that drive a nationwide transition to zero-emission light-duty vehicles.

Every American's health is at risk from climate change – even healthy adults. But certain groups face greater risks - especially children, older adults, pregnant people, people who work outdoors, low-income communities, communities of color and people living with chronic diseases. Climate change harms our health in many different ways – including more extreme heat; more frequent and intense wildfires and flooding; worsening air pollution; an increased risk from water-borne and vector-borne diseases; increased risks to mental health; and more.

The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gases in the United States. Gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles produce an array of pollutants – from carbon pollution that fuels the increasingly dangerous climate crisis, to particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and numerous additional pollutants that directly harm health. People living near traffic pollution face high risks of health harms, including asthma attacks, respiratory and cardiovascular harm, heart attacks, strokes, and premature death.

We thank EPA for finalizing robust short-term federal greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks in December 2021. That was a critical first step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public health.

We now urge EPA to move as quickly as possible in promulgating strong long-term standards to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger cars and light trucks in model year 2027 and beyond, while driving the transition to zero-emission transportation. Strong cleaner cars standards that deliver real-world emission benefits are absolutely critical to avoid the worst outcomes of climate change, reduce exposure to air pollution and achieve overwhelming health benefits. Long-term cleaner cars standards will benefit the health of all Americans, but especially communities living near traffic pollution.

A [recent report](#) from the American Lung Association showed that transitioning to zero-emission transportation and electricity will greatly reduce pollutants that harm health today and threaten a healthier future. It specifically found that if the nation were to reach 100 percent sales of zero-emission passenger cars by 2035 and of heavy-duty trucks by 2040, and shifted to non-combustion electricity generation by 2035, it would experience \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits by 2050.

The Biden Administration has an opportunity to protect public health, reduce dangerous air pollution and help fight climate change with strong long-term clean cars standards. We urge EPA to move as quickly as possible to enact the strongest possible long-term standards.

Sincerely,

1. Allergy & Asthma Network
2. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
3. American College of Physicians
4. American Lung Association
5. American Psychological Association
6. American Public Health Association
7. Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
8. Children's Environmental Health Network
9. Climate for Health
10. Climate Psychiatry Alliance
11. Health Care Without Harm
12. Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
13. National Association of County and City Health Officials
14. Physicians for Social Responsibility