

**As Prepared for Delivery**  
Comments of Elise Wallis  
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On

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
California Advanced Clean Fleets Waiver  
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0589  
August 14, 2024

Good Evening. My name is Elise Wallis and I am the Manager of Health Partnerships for the American Lung Association. Today, I urge EPA to approve the clean air waiver for the Advanced Clean Fleets rule.

California faces the most difficult air pollution challenges in the nation, with the state being home to six of the ten smoggiest cities in America. I live in one of them (Los Angeles), which has consistently ranked as the #1 most polluted metro area for ozone in the country.

Breathing polluted air can lead to numerous health harms, including asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and even premature death. Unfortunately, these health risks are not equally shared. Pollution from our transportation sector disproportionately affects communities near transportation hubs, like ports, warehouses and major truck routes that are exposed to high levels of pollution and, therefore, face greater health risks.

By shifting more new vehicles in truck fleets to zero-emission technologies, the Advanced Clean Fleets rule will significantly cut diesel exhaust and associated health harms. The rule will provide an estimated \$26.5 billion in health benefits between 2024 to 2050, save over 2,500 lives, avoid over 1,100 emergency room visits, and avoid over 870 hospitalizations for cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses.

I would like to use my remaining time to highlight the strong support this rule has received from public health stakeholders in California and beyond. A broad coalition of health and medical voices were actively engaged throughout the ACF rulemaking process and encouraged the California Air Resources Board to adopt the rule last year. Most recently, the American Lung Association was one of 65 health and medical groups that submitted comments to your agency this week urging the approval of California's Clean Air Act waivers, including the ACF waiver. These health groups include organizations that represent pediatricians, pediatric nurse practitioners, respiratory care practitioners, and public health professionals, just to name a few.

In closing, I call on EPA to approve California's waiver for the ACF rule without delay. I also urge the agency to approve the seven other pending clean air programs to help ensure that all Californians can breathe safe and healthy air. Thank you.