

March 28, 2023

RE: Docket #EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072

Dear Administrator Regan:

As physicians, nurses, public health professionals and healthcare workers responsible for protecting the health of our patients and communities, we urge you to finalize much stronger and more protective limits on particle pollution.

As health professionals, we do our best to help reduce the health harms impacting the communities we serve, but we cannot control the air quality. While the air people are breathing is much cleaner today than it was a few decades ago, the fact is that air pollution – particularly particle pollution – is still harming the health of Americans across the country. The current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter are just too weak.

Please prioritize the health of our patients and communities we serve by proposing and finalizing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter that match what the science shows is necessary: 8 micrograms per cubic meter for the annual standard and 25 micrograms per cubic meter for the 24-hour standard.

There is no safe level of air pollution. More protective standards are necessary to bring about health benefits nationwide and drive the overall cleanup of polluting sources, especially those that have long burdened communities of color disproportionately. Strengthening both the 24-hour and annual standards is important for achieving health and equity benefits.

Sincerely,

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