

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of William Barrett
National Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy
American Lung Association

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Multi-Pollutant Standards for New Light- and Medium-duty Vehicles (Cleaner Cars Standards)
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0829
May 9, 2023

Good evening. My name is Will Barrett, National Senior Director for Clean Air Advocacy with the American Lung Association. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this important topic and to share American Lung Association research in this area.

First, I want to share a bit of framing of my comments within the context of the American Lung Association's 24th annual State of the Air report. This annual air quality report card is released each April to highlight air quality progress and challenges in communities across the United States. Three key items to note from this year's report:

1. 120 Million Americans continue to live in a community impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone, particle pollution or both.
2. Major disparities in pollution burden remain: a person of color is 3.7 times more likely than a white person to live in a community with the worst air pollution.
3. Climate change is making the job of cleaning our air more difficult and is threatening hard-fought clean air progress.

Given that the transportation sector is such a major source of unhealthy air at the regional and neighborhood levels, and the leading source of climate pollution, we simply can't afford to leave any emission opportunities on the table. **We call on EPA to use Alternative 1 as the starting point for health-protective multi-pollutant standards.**

EPA estimates that a widespread shift to zero-emission technologies, supported by market development, cost savings and federal infrastructure, consumer and manufacturing investments will support meeting these standards.

What will meeting these standards mean?

From a health perspective, the American Lung Association's "Zeroing In on Healthy Air" report issued in March 2022 envisioned a similar scenario. Our research modeled all new vehicle sales being zero-emission by 2035, new trucks by 2040 and powered by a non-combustion grid. The results help to illustrate the scale of the health benefits possible through more health-protective vehicle emission standards:

- \$1.2 Trillion in Public Health Benefits cumulatively by 2050
- 110,000 lives saved
- 2.7 million asthma attacks avoided
- 13.4 million lost work days avoided
- We also show \$1.7 Trillion in Climate Benefits possible through this transition

The health cost of pollution today is unacceptable, pollution burdens are inequitable and the growing risks on the horizon due to climate change all demand the strongest possible actions. **We urge EPA to treat Alternative 1 as the starting point to maximize clean air, health and health equity. We call on EPA to finalize the standards this year.**