

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of **Tiffany Nichols**
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On
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
California Waiver Hearing: Advanced Clean Trucks, Omnibus Low NOx, and HD Emission Warranty
Regulations

June 29, 2022

Good morning/afternoon,

I am Tiffany Nichols, Advocacy Director for the American Lung Association of Indiana. In March we released our *Zeroing in on Healthy Air report* which found that if Indiana transitioned to vehicles powered by clean electricity it would generate \$36.8 billion in public health benefits and prevent 3,360 premature deaths, 83,000 asthma attacks and 373,000 lost workdays for Indiana residents. Zero-emission trucks are a significant factor in these findings.

While Indiana has yet to tackle this issue, we applaud states such as California for doing its part to reduce these harmful emissions. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency's recent Transportation Pollution and Environmental Justice Fact Sheet, there are 72 million Americans living near major trucking routes, and those people tend to have lower incomes and be people of color. These people are disproportionately impacted by pollution and therefore more likely to experience health impacts – respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Interstate 70 runs directly through my childhood neighborhood in the inner-city Indianapolis. On days that the highway was really congested we could actually see the many dark clouds of exhaust and smell the pollution. Sadly, the smell was normal to us. However, my neighbor and childhood best friend had chronic asthma and often could not play outdoors child should have to remain in the house because we refuse to take action to protect their health. We can reduce transportation pollution.

Cutting these emissions is vital to improving public health, reducing health disparities, and reducing climate pollutants from the trucking industry. This is true in California and in those states that opt-in to these programs. It is for these reasons that I fully support the US Environmental Protection Agency granting California cleaner truck waivers without delay to implement these critical public health policies.