



May 3, 2021

The President  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

As national health, medical and nursing organizations, we urge you to set strong, ambitious greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for cars, light trucks and SUVs through at least model year 2030. For the nation to achieve your vision of clean air, a safe climate, healthy communities and environmental justice, we must urgently transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Our organizations and the physicians, nurses, public health professionals and patients we represent are vocal advocates for urgent action to clean up air pollution and curb climate change. In order to protect public health from the impacts of climate change and meet the directives of the Paris Agreement, a widespread transition to electric vehicles and, ultimately, a pollution-free transportation sector, is necessary. Rigorous standards for light-duty vehicles are critical to drive the shift to zero-emission vehicles.

We urge you to issue the strongest possible emissions and fuel efficiency standards to protect public health. These standards must reflect the urgency of our climate health crisis.

- Urgently address model years through at least 2030.
- In the near term, secure equivalent or greater greenhouse gas emission reductions pollution as were scheduled to be achieved under the standards finalized by the Obama Administration and then set stronger greenhouse gas emissions standards that drive a dramatic transition to zero-emission vehicles.

- Update tailpipe and evaporative emission standards for fine particles and ozone-forming pollutants to develop more stringent standards and extend useful life to ensure real-world emissions benefits are captured through the full life cycle of the vehicle.
- Exclude excess crediting and other flexibilities that could allow some companies to avoid making meaningful emissions reductions and would reduce real-world benefits of cleaner technologies.
- Meaningfully involve environmental justice communities and health experts.

The transportation sector is a leading source of harmful air pollution that threatens health of the public, particularly vulnerable populations like children, pregnant people, the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. Exposure to pollution from the transportation sector can trigger asthma attacks, worsen chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lead to increases in hospitalizations for respiratory or cardiovascular diseases. Long-term exposure can lead to the development of asthma in children, reproductive harm, increases in pre-term birth and low birth weight in babies, impaired cognitive development, dementia, heart attacks, cancer, strokes and even premature death. This is particularly harmful for communities near oil refineries and major roadways, which are disproportionately likely to be low-income communities or communities of color.

The transportation sector is also the nation’s largest source of carbon pollution. From the increasing prevalence of 500-year floods to more frequent and intense wildfires to hotter summers with higher ground-level ozone pollution levels, climate change poses an immense threat to public health.

We appreciate the actions to prioritize health, equity and climate and your strong, groundbreaking commitments to slash air pollution, curb climate change and build a healthier, more equitable future. We also appreciate your actions to ensure states’ continued ability to set stronger standards for vehicles under the Clean Air Act. Now, we call on you to build on these actions by urgently setting stringent light-duty emissions standards through 2030 and beyond that ensure the nation transitions to cleaner cars and healthier communities.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network  
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
 American Lung Association  
 American Public Health Association  
 American Psychological Association  
 American Thoracic Society  
 Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Children’s Environmental Health Network  
 Climate for Health  
 Health Care Without Harm  
 Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health  
 Medical Students for a Sustainable Future  
 National Association of County and City Health Officials  
 Public Health Institute