



## Transcript of **Virtual Public Hearing**

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

*EPA Hearing*

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UNITED STATES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE

REVISED 2023 AND LATER MODEL YEAR

LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS STANDARDS

DOCKET NUMBER EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0208

9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

(Virtual Webcast)

Room 2080

101 7th Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20407

1 On behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency:

2 ALEJANDRA NUNEZ, Deputy Assistant Administrator for

3 Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation

4 MICHAEL OLECHIW, Light Duty Center Director

5 Office of Transportation and Air Quality

6 Speaker Block 1:

7 PAUL BILLINGS, American Lung Association

8 CARA COOK, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

9 VIJAY LIMAYE, Natural Resources Defense Council

10 KATHERINE GARCIA, Sierra Club

11 RAMON CRUZ, Sierra Club

12 MOLLY RAUCH, Moms Clean Air Force

13 SUSAN HENDERSHOT, Interfaith Power & Light

14 GABRIAL FILIPPELLI, Indiana University

15 ANDREA MARPILLIERO COLORNINA, GreenLatinos

16 JARED SNYDER, New York State Department of

17 Environmental Conservation

18 JAMES FLYNN, Northeast States for Coordinated Air

19 Use Management

20 RASTO BREZNY, Manufacturers of Emissions Controls

21 Association

22

1 Speaker Block 1:

2 CHRIS BLILEY, Growth Energy

3 SENATOR TOM DASCHLE, High Octane Low Carbon Alliance

4 DENNIS BLAIR, Securing America's Future Energy

5 SHAINA OLIVER, Moms Clean Air Force

6 ALMETA E. COOPER, Moms Clean Air Force

7 JOEL LEVIN, Plug In America

8 NOAH HOWE, Ceres

9 Speaker Block 2:

10 DIANA VON VLEET

11 LIANE RANDOLPH, California Air Resources Board

12 EVAN FEHSENFELD, Program for Public Consultation

13 JULIE KIMMEL, Moms Clean Air Force

14 LAURIE ANDERSON, Moms Clean Air Force Colorado Chapter

15 CELERAH HEWES, Moms Clean Air Force

16 KEVIN STEWART, American Lung Association in the

17 Mid-Atlantic

18 MEREDITH HAINES

19 JONATHAN SHEVELEW, Tesla Owners Club of Pennsylvania

20 SANDRA REMILIEEN

21 MELANIE BUZZELLI

22 JIM STEITZ

1 Speaker Block 2:

2 PATRICIA KEEFE

3 ELIZABETH CHUN HYE LEE, United Methodist Women

4 Renee M. Chacon, Spirit of the Sun

5 AFTERNOON SESSION

6 Speaker Block 3:

7 DR. YOLANDA WHYTE, Moms Clean Air Force

8 DEVIN WATKINS, Competitive Enterprise Institute

9 SAM KAZMAN, Competitive Enterprise Institute

10 MARIO LEWIS, Competitive Enterprise Institute

11 PATRICK MICHAELS, Competitive Enterprise Institute

12 KATHERINE PRUITT

13 SCOTT HOCHBERG, Center for Biological Diversity

14 GREG HARNED, Center for Biological Diversity

15 LIZ SCOTT, American Lung Association

16 LAURA BENDER, American Lung Association

17 BOB YUHNKE, Policy Committee, Elders Climate Action

18 CHRISTOPHER HARTO, Consumer Reports

19 CAROLYN SEEMAN

20 SUSAN PATE, Retired

21 GEORGE AGORTSAS

22 VANESSA LYNCH, Moms Clean Air Force

1 Speaker Block 3:

2 KINDRA WEID, MI Air MI Health

3 GEOFF COOPER, Renewable Fuels Association

4 Speaker Block 4:

5 JEFF ALSON, Environmental Protection Network

6 WILLIAM DAVIDSON, Davidson

7 LAURA KUNTZ

8 RENE ST. JULIEN

9 JENNA RIEMENSCHNEIDER, Asthma and Allergy Foundation

10 Of America

11 DANIEL GAGE, NGVAmerica

12 LILLA REEVES, NPCA

13 EDITH ZEWADSKI-BRICKER, United Methodist Women

14 MOLLY COLLINS

15 LARA LEVISON

16 EVE LUKENS-DAY, Environment America

17 KEN MINAULT, Sierra Club

18 ELIZABETH HAUPTMAN, Moms Clean Air Force Michigan

19 Speaker Block 5:

20 AMANDA BEGLEY

21 MARK CHUN

22

1 Speaker Block 5:

2 WILLIAM BARRETT, American Lung Association in

3 California

4 PATRICE TOMCIK, Moms Clean Air Force

5 JAMES GALLAGHER

6 LUCIA VALENTINE, Moms Clean Air Force

7 DEBI CHERNAK, HR Cert Prep Pros, Inc.

8 MARK ROSE, National Parks Conservation Association

9 JENNIFER CANTLEY, Moms Clean Air Force

10 KARIN STEIN, Moms Clean Air Force

11 STEPHANIE KLEIN, Moms Clean Air Force

12 MICHELLE UBERUAGA, Moms Clean Air Force

13 ANN MESNIKOFF, Environmental Law & Policy Center

14 SENATOR MARCI FRANCISCO, Kansas State Senate

15 MAUREEN DUGAN, Sizer School

16 ROB LAREW, National Farmers Union

17 SHANN BAKER-BRANSTETTER

18 GREGORY A. CAUDILL, Retired Submarine Marine

19 Machinist Mate

20 ARTHUR SMITH

21 MILTON MITCHELL

22 KENNETH MOORE

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Introductions, Logistics, EPA Opening Statements

3 MS. THOMPSON: It looks like we can go ahead and  
4 get started.

5 Good morning and welcome to the United States  
6 Environmental Protection Agency's Virtual Public  
7 Hearing for the Revised 2023 and Later Model Year  
8 Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards.

9 My name is Kayla Thompson from Abt Associates,  
10 Contractor for the U.S. EPA.

11 We are now ready to begin and I'll turn it over to  
12 EPA to get us started.

13 MS. NUNEZ: Good morning. On behalf of the  
14 Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Air  
15 and Radiation, I would like to welcome you to today's  
16 Public Hearing and thank you to our contractor, Abt  
17 Associates, who will help with administering the  
18 virtual public hearing today.

19 I am Alejandra Nunez, the Deputy Assistant  
20 Administrator for Mobile Sources with EPA's Office of  
21 Air and Radiation.

22 With me today is Mike Olechiw, Light-Duty Center



1 Director in the Assessment and Standards Division  
2 within EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality  
3 or OTAQ.

4 Mike will be the presiding officer for today's  
5 hearing.

6 Also during this hearing, we'll have on the panel  
7 today Bill Charmley Robin Moran, and Tad Wysor from  
8 OTAQ, and Mark Kataoka and Seth Bucksbaum from EPA's  
9 Office of General Counsel.

10 As you know during his first days in office,  
11 President Biden issued a series of Executive Orders  
12 that set a clear direction for EPA and his  
13 Administration to protect public health, address the  
14 climate crisis, and ensure environmental justice.

15 It is truly historic to have an Administration  
16 that has made these issues as a centerpiece of his  
17 policy agenda.

18 These Executive Orders gave federal agencies  
19 direction to use the best science to protect the  
20 environment and public health, ensure access to clean  
21 air for everyone, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and  
22 resilience to the impacts of climate change.

1           Executive Order 13990 issued on President Biden's  
2 first day in office directed all agencies to review  
3 their regulations, orders, guidance, and policies to  
4 ensure, among other goals, that we are promoting the  
5 protection of public health and the environment,  
6 including the goals of reducing greenhouse gas  
7 emissions and prioritizing environmental justice.

8           Under this Executive Order, EPA was asked to  
9 review the April 2020 action by the previous  
10 Administration to weaken the light-duty vehicle  
11 greenhouse gas emissions standards that had been in  
12 place since 2012.

13           EPA has carefully reviewed the record and assessed  
14 more recent information and the ongoing technological  
15 progress in the auto industry in both internal  
16 combustion and electrified technologies.

17           As we are considering this record and the various  
18 authorities under the Clean Air Act, EPA has now  
19 proposed a revised set of more stringent greenhouse gas  
20 emissions standards that would apply to Model Years  
21 2023 through 2026. These proposed standards for light-  
22 duty vehicles are the subject of today's hearing.

1           As we show in the rulemaking documents that are  
2 now available in Federal Register on EPA's website and  
3 in the public docket, there is strong technical  
4 evidence that the auto industry is in a position to  
5 very quickly get the Clean Cars Program back on track  
6 with annual greenhouse gas emissions reductions similar  
7 to those that they have been planning for the past  
8 decade.

9           In fact, by 2026 the proposed standards will  
10 exceed the most stringent standards of the 2012  
11 program. We project that the auto industry would meet  
12 this technical challenge at a reasonable cost, that the  
13 offsetting gasoline savings to vehicle owners will be  
14 substantial, that the reductions in greenhouse gas  
15 emissions would be large, and that the proposed  
16 standards would achieve significant public health  
17 benefits for Americans.

18           At the same time we are increasingly aware of the  
19 urgency of the climate crisis and its sobering effects  
20 almost daily in the news, a reality that international  
21 climate scientists just brought into even sharper focus  
22 in the major report earlier this month.

1 EPA and this Administration are very clear that  
2 this proposal of revised emission standards, important  
3 though they are, will not in themselves result in  
4 sufficient emissions reductions. For that reason, we  
5 have also announced plans to develop a broader, longer-  
6 term set of regulations for light-duty vehicles that we  
7 plan to propose during the next year.

8 As laid out in Executive Order 14037 issued  
9 earlier this month, the Administrator of the  
10 Environmental Protection Agency shall, as appropriate  
11 and consistent with applicable law, consider beginning  
12 work on a rulemaking under the Clean Air Act to  
13 establish new multi-pollutant emissions standards,  
14 including for greenhouse gas emissions, for light- and  
15 medium-duty vehicles, beginning with Model Year 2027  
16 and extending through and including at least Model Year  
17 2030.

18 As EPA embarks on this future set of longer-term  
19 standards, we look forward to public engagement and  
20 stakeholder input.

21 For today, however, we look forward to your  
22 comments on our current proposal for standards for

1 Model Year 2026. EPA welcomes all of the comments  
2 we'll hear today and tomorrow from the many  
3 stakeholders participating in this hearing as we  
4 develop the final rule.

5 We also look forward to considering and reading  
6 comments that we receive during the public comment  
7 period which is open until September 27th.

8 Thank you all for attending this important public  
9 hearing, and thank you to everyone who will provide  
10 testimony today and tomorrow.

11 I will now turn it over to Mike Olechiw, the  
12 presiding officer for today's hearing.

13 MR. OLECHIW: Okay. Thank you, Ale.

14 As Ale said, the purpose of this hearing is to  
15 receive oral testimony from interested parties  
16 regarding EPA's Proposed Revisions to Light-Duty  
17 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards.

18 We are conducting this hearing in accordance with  
19 Section 307(d) of the Clean Air Act and this hearing  
20 provides the forum for interested persons to submit  
21 oral presentations.

22 We have scheduled time for all those who have

1 registered using the online registration process.

2 Because of the level of interest, we will end  
3 today's session at around 5 p.m. and continue the  
4 hearing tomorrow starting again at 9:30 a.m. Eastern,  
5 and we will continue tomorrow until all speakers have  
6 been heard.

7 We appreciate that holding a public hearing  
8 virtually is relatively new, but EPA's committed to  
9 making use of evolving technologies and ensuring that  
10 we hear from all who wish to provide oral testimony.

11 As a reminder, the public also has an opportunity  
12 to submit written comments through September 27th,  
13 2021.

14 At this time, we have almost 200 people registered  
15 to present testimony today and tomorrow.

16 This hearing is being recorded and the transcript  
17 will also be available electronically on the  
18 regulations.gov website at EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-02-08.

19 We expect to post the recording of the hearing in  
20 the next few days on the website for this rule.

21 This hearing will be conducted informally and  
22 Formal Rules of Evidence do not apply. However, as

1 presiding officer, I am authorized to strike from the  
2 record statements which are deemed irrelevant or  
3 needlessly repetitious and to enforce reasonable limits  
4 on the duration of the statements of any speakers.

5 Speakers will be allowed to make oral statements  
6 which they may later expand in writing for the record.  
7 We request that speakers state their names and any  
8 affiliation prior to making their oral statements and  
9 to limit their testimony to three minutes.

10 When a speaker has finished their presentation,  
11 members of this panel may ask questions concerning the  
12 issues raised in the testimony.

13 Our contractor, Abt Associates, will be  
14 facilitating the line-up of the speakers and helping to  
15 keep testimony to three minutes.

16 We recognize that this is not a lot of time and  
17 appreciate everyone's cooperation in allowing us to  
18 give everyone a chance to speak today.

19 Please note that EPA's distributed a list and a  
20 tentative order of those registered to speak today and  
21 tomorrow and we may make slight adjustments to the  
22 hearing for accommodations.

1           We plan to take a 30-minute lunch break around  
2 12:30 p.m. today and an afternoon break around 3:30.

3           Should there be members of the press with further  
4 questions about today's hearing, please contact Aaron  
5 Burgfeld at [burgfeld.aaron@epa.gov](mailto:burgfeld.aaron@epa.gov).

6           With that, I will now ask Kayla to start the  
7 hearing with our first set of speakers.

8           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

9           Before we begin, we'd like to go over some  
10 logistics for today's public hearing. As a reminder,  
11 all attendees are muted automatically. If you are  
12 speaking today, you will receive a notification on your  
13 screen that you are being promoted to the row of  
14 panelists shortly prior to your speaking time.

15           You must accept that invitation to be able to  
16 unmute when you are called to testify. This will also  
17 allow you to turn on your camera which we encourage you  
18 to do. Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
19 their phones when called to testify.

20           If you are having technical difficulties, please  
21 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
22 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but



1 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
2 send an e-mail again to public\_hearing@abtassoc.com or  
3 call 919-294-7712.

4 Now we will begin our public testimony. The  
5 expected speaking order is currently displayed on the  
6 screen. We ask that each person limit their verbal  
7 testimony to three minutes. We encourage you to  
8 provide your full written testimony and any additional  
9 comments of any length of Docket Number EPA-HQ-OAR-  
10 2021-0208 on regulations.gov.

11 I will be introducing each speaker in turn.  
12 Please speak slowly and clearly so our court reporter  
13 can record these proceedings accurately.

14 The first speaker will be Paul Billings. Please  
15 state your name and affiliation for the record.

16 Speaker Block 1

17 MR. BILLINGS: Good morning. I'm Paul Billings,  
18 National Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the  
19 American Lung Association.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak this  
21 morning.

22 Air pollution is a major threat to public health

1 and air pollution discriminates against black and brown  
2 communities and low-income communities. Air pollution  
3 causes tens of thousands of people to die each year in  
4 the United States and motor vehicles are a leading  
5 source of emissions that create ozone or smog and  
6 particle pollution.

7 Transportation is also the nation's leading  
8 contributor to climate change.

9 The American Lung Association's most recent State  
10 of the Air Report found that more than a 135 million  
11 people in the United States, more than four in 10, live  
12 in counties with unhealthy levels of air pollution.

13 Our report also found that people of color are  
14 much more likely to live in counties with failing  
15 grades for air pollution than white Americans.

16 We know that people who live near roadways and oil  
17 and gas operations, including refineries, bear a  
18 disproportionate burden of air pollution and that  
19 climate change is making that pollution worse.

20 Let me repeat this. Climate change is making air  
21 quality worse. My time is short. So I want to make  
22 three brief points and will provide detailed written

1 comments prior to the deadline.

2 First, climate change is a health emergency. The  
3 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that  
4 the planet is on a path towards catastrophic  
5 destruction if we do not make serious cuts to  
6 greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

7 From deadly floods in Tennessee to wildfires in  
8 the West destroying communities and blanket the  
9 continent with unhealthy particle pollution, no one can  
10 escape the lethal consequences and the urgent need to  
11 act.

12 EPA must finalize this rulemaking this year in  
13 order to set stronger tailpipe standards for Model Year  
14 2023. Climate change is a health emergency and the  
15 Biden Administration must respond with dispatch.

16 Secondly, we must maximize the real world emission  
17 reductions from this program. We are concerned about  
18 loopholes and credits that reduce the actual emission  
19 reductions from the vehicles on the road. EPA must not  
20 allow these credits to undermine the emission  
21 reductions.

22 Third, EPA's own analysis points to more

1 Protective Alternative Number 2, which would provide  
2 more pollution reduction and more electric vehicles on  
3 the road by 2026.

4 EPA estimates that Alternative 2 would result in  
5 significant present value net benefits of up to a 180  
6 billion and analyzed net benefits of up to 9.1 billion.  
7 Quoting from the NPRM, "The total benefits far exceed  
8 the costs of the program." As noted above, this is a  
9 health emergency and maximizing pollution reductions is  
10 needed.

11 We encourage EPA to pursue at minimum the  
12 stringency laid out in Alternative 2 and remove excess  
13 crediting and loopholes that will reduce the real world  
14 benefits of a more health-protective alternative.

15 In conclusion, climate change is a health  
16 emergency. EPA must maximize the pollution reductions,  
17 minimize the loopholes, and finalize this rule this  
18 year to implement the regulations in Model Year 2023.

19 Thank you very much, and I'd be happy to answer  
20 any questions.

21 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

22 The next speaker will be Cara Cook. Please state

1 your name and affiliation for the record.

2 MS. COOK: Hi. Good morning. This is Cara Cook,  
3 affiliation Alliance of Nurses for Health Environments.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments  
5 today.

6 I'm a registered nurse and part of the Alliance of  
7 Nurses for Health Environments, the only national  
8 nursing organization focused solely on how the  
9 environment impacts human health.

10 This proposal is a step in the right direction.  
11 However, our organization strongly urges EPA to set the  
12 strongest possible clean car standards to protect  
13 public health and address the climate crisis.

14 As the transportation sector is the leading source  
15 of harmful carbon pollution in the U.S., strong clean  
16 car standards are critical to providing meaningful  
17 pollution reductions and fuel savings.

18 If we do not make significant cuts in greenhouse  
19 gas emissions as soon as possible, the worst impacts of  
20 climate change will be unavoidable.

21 As nurses serving on the front lines of  
22 communities and caring for impacted populations, we are

1 already seeing the very real effects of climate change  
2 on health.

3 The Administration has also expressed its priority  
4 of promoting environmental justice. Communities of  
5 color and low-income communities are disproportionately  
6 exposed and harmed by exposure to air pollution,  
7 including pollution from the transportation sector.  
8 Clean air pollution from this sector is a critical step  
9 in achieving that priority.

10 We thank EPA for taking the necessary first step  
11 by addressing the previous Administration's rollbacks  
12 of clean car standards but more is needed.

13 We are requesting EPA to move swiftly to set the  
14 next round of standards and specifically the rule must  
15 be as strong as possible for Model Year 2026 to ensure  
16 the U.S. can achieve a hundred percent zero emission  
17 vehicle sales by no later than 2035 consistent with the  
18 Biden Administration's Executive Order.

19 The preferred alternative identified by EPA is not  
20 as strong as the standard finalized during the Obama  
21 Administration. The EPA itself identified a much  
22 better rule, Alternative 2, which would put 400,000

1 extra electric vehicles on the road by 2026 and result  
2 in a 130 million metric tons fewer greenhouse gas  
3 emissions.

4 Also, we're urging EPA to set much stronger  
5 standards covering cars, SUVs, and light trucks through  
6 at least 2030. Standards should be reflective of the  
7 robust response required to reduce carbon pollution and  
8 to derive the transition to zero emission vehicles.

9 And lastly, while the top line numbers of the  
10 proposal look like they will lead to meaningful  
11 emissions reductions, the standards are undermined by  
12 unnecessary give-aways to automakers that reduce their  
13 benefits and delay progress towards cleaner technology.

14 I want to close with just a reminder that clean  
15 air and more efficient vehicles need cleaner air,  
16 healthier people, and a thriving economy. The Alliance  
17 of Nurses for Healthy Environments is urging EPA to  
18 move forward with ambitious clean car standards that  
19 meet the scale of the climate crisis and protect  
20 health.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

1           The next speaker will be Vijay Limaye. You may  
2 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
3 record.

4           DR. LIMAYE: Good morning. This is Vijay Limaye.  
5 I'm with NRDC, and I want to thank EPA for organizing  
6 this public hearing.

7           I'm trained as a Ph.D. environmental  
8 epidemiologist and I'm a former EPA scientist myself.  
9 I work to better understand the harmful effects of air  
10 pollution and climate change on health. At EPA I  
11 worked on air pollution and health science. I'm now a  
12 climate and health scientist at NRDC.

13           I'm speaking today on behalf of our more than  
14 three million members and online activists who support  
15 our efforts to safeguard all Americans' right to clean  
16 air, clean water, and a healthy planet.

17           This proposal comes at a critical moment. The  
18 recent Comprehensive Climate Assessment from IPCC shows  
19 that fossil fuel pollution, the burning of coal, oil,  
20 and gas, is driving a rapid and widespread  
21 destabilization of our planet.

22           According to that science, levels of carbon



1 dioxide in the atmosphere haven't been this high in two  
2 million years. We are in dangerous uncharted territory  
3 in terms of the human experience because of our  
4 continued reliance on dirty fossil fuels.

5 In this country the transportation sector is the  
6 top contributor to climate pollution and the window of  
7 time for us to slow further warming and limit the  
8 likelihood of dangerous tipping points is quickly  
9 closing.

10 This unprecedented moment demands strong action  
11 which is why EPA should finalize a rule at least as  
12 stringent as Alternate 2 which would achieve more  
13 emission reductions than the proposal.

14 Maximizing those pollution reductions is critical  
15 and urgent because the climate crisis is here and now  
16 and it is fueling and an escalating public health  
17 emergency and endangering people all across the  
18 country.

19 It's contributing to more severe wildfires,  
20 exacerbating dangerous heat waves and drought, spiking  
21 levels of air pollution from ozone, smog, and wildfire  
22 smoke, and super-charging rainfall and flooding.

1           If we continue down this path without cutting  
2 harmful emissions, climate hazards will only worsen in  
3 frequency, intensity, duration, and reach in the  
4 future, and the costs of those hazards, which broke a  
5 new record last year, according to federal data, will  
6 skyrocket out of control.

7           Climate hazards have profound consequences that  
8 are in vivid display right now, both in people's pain  
9 and suffering and in the costly need for medical care.  
10 These health costs are difficult to track and quantify  
11 and so they are largely absent from public accounting  
12 of climate damages.

13           For that reason, the health-related costs savings  
14 of climate pollution reductions are not included in the  
15 accounting of benefits from the proposed rule being  
16 considered today. Because of these missing savings,  
17 the reality is that the net benefits of a strong cars  
18 plan are even higher than those currently estimated by  
19 EPA.

20           I led a peer-reviewed analysis that estimated the  
21 health costs of 10 climate-sensitive events across the  
22 U.S. that occurred during just one recent year and

1 using public data and EPA's valuation methods, we found  
2 that just those 10 events inflicted huge health harms,  
3 about 900 deaths, 21,000 hospitalizations, and 18,000  
4 ER visits, took a total financial toll of \$10 billion  
5 in damage.

6 So NRDC urges EPA to finalize light-duty vehicle  
7 standards that maximize climate pollution reductions,  
8 deliver cleaner air, and help to secure a safer and  
9 healthier future.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

12 The next speaker will be Katherine Garcia. You  
13 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
14 the record.

15 MS. GARCIA: I'm Katherine Garcia from the Sierra  
16 Club.

17 Good morning. My name is Katherine Garcia. I'm a  
18 mother of a toddler and a climate activist. I'm also  
19 the Acting Director of Sierra Club's Clean  
20 Transportation for All Campaign and a resident of  
21 Washington, D.C.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

1 I spent years advocating for stricter vehicle  
2 standards to reduce the number of unhealthy air days  
3 for residents across the country. I cannot overstate  
4 the importance of strong clean car standards, for  
5 climate action, racial justice, and improving public  
6 health.

7 I'm calling on EPA to strengthen this proposed  
8 rule to deliver on our shared priorities.

9 President Biden and his Administration have  
10 promised to take action to reverse Donald Trump's  
11 illegal and dangerous attacks on cleaner cars and clean  
12 air.

13 I thank the Administration for the speed with  
14 which they have worked on new clean car standards to  
15 set us back on track.

16 Strong standards will protect communities across  
17 the country from harmful transportation pollution, set  
18 enforceable regulations that the auto industry must  
19 meet, and are critical to our nation slashing climate=  
20 disrupting emissions and meeting our Paris Agreement  
21 commitment by 2030.

22 This proposal has only been out for a couple of

1 weeks and already over 9,000 Sierra Club members and  
2 supporters have sent in comments emphasizing the need  
3 for the EPA to protect climate and public health by  
4 finalizing a bold rule.

5 While I'm pleased to see the EPA has taken steps  
6 to strengthen the current standards, I'm disappointed  
7 to see that the agency is still offering loopholes  
8 which would allow automakers to double down on gas  
9 guzzlers.

10 The current proposal would reinstate a prior  
11 loophole by treating each zero emission vehicle as  
12 multiple zero emission vehicles when measuring  
13 compliance. Not only does this loophole erode the  
14 effectiveness of the rule, but recent research shows  
15 that it is actually counterproductive to accelerating  
16 the deployment of electric vehicles.

17 We should be past the point of multipliers by now.  
18 Instead, the final rule should say loud and clear one  
19 zero emission vehicle counts for one zero emission  
20 vehicle.

21 During the previous Administration, Sierra Club in  
22 coalition with the diverse set of advocacy groups

1 worked to defend the clean car standards. Now is the  
2 moment for the Biden Administration to go further than  
3 ever before and establish the strongest rule possible.

4 Thank you again for this opportunity.

5 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

6 The next speaker will be Ramon Cruz. Ramon, you  
7 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
8 the record.

9 MR. CRUZ: Yes, hello. Thank you very much.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

11 My name is Ramon Cruz, and I'm the President of  
12 the Sierra Club, the nation's largest and most  
13 influential grassroots environmental organization. I  
14 live in Brooklyn, and I'm originally from Puerto Rico.

15 I'm here today to urge the EPA to set the  
16 strongest possible clean car standards to deliver real  
17 world emissions and reductions that match the urgency  
18 of the climate crisis that we're living right now.

19 I want to go into the why behind these standards.  
20 This rule would be our nation's strongest climate tool  
21 if EPA gets it right. This summer has been devastating  
22 for our communities. Our friends, family and neighbors

1 have been on the front lines of heat waves, of  
2 wildfires, flooding, and more, and many times, you  
3 know, people speak about climate action for future  
4 generation. While the well-being of children growing  
5 up in this decade is of big importance, the reality of  
6 that we're experiencing the impacts of climate crisis  
7 right now and while all generations are impacted, not  
8 all communities are impacted the same way.

9 All too often the communities least responsible  
10 for our climate pollution are facing the burdens of the  
11 crisis and suffering from toxic air pollution, as well.

12 So the latest IPCC report states in the strongest  
13 way ever that the climate crisis will continue to  
14 rapidly worsen unless the world slashes climate=  
15 disrupting pollution as quickly as possible in the next  
16 decade.

17 Transportation pollution is our nation's worst  
18 offender when it comes to the climate crisis and this  
19 rulemaking, if strengthened, can put us back on track  
20 and to have strong standards and offer protection for  
21 communities in New York and across the nation.

22 As proposed, this rule would result in much less

1 pollution reduction than the auto industry agreeing to  
2 in 2012, despite the enormous progress that's occurred  
3 on electric vehicles and the climate disasters we have  
4 seen since then.

5 So we must get to a hundred percent electric  
6 vehicles sales by 2035 and, unfortunately, the EPA's  
7 proposed rule doesn't go far enough to get us on that  
8 path.

9 We're also deeply concerned about the loopholes  
10 that the proposal contains that would allow auto  
11 manufactures to double down on gas-guzzling vehicles.

12 So today you have heard and will continue to hear  
13 from a diverse movement of people, mothers, organizers,  
14 environmental justice leaders, climate activists,  
15 doctors, elected officials, and more, together telling  
16 the EPA it's time to act. Many of these identities  
17 overlap and our movement is strong because the fight  
18 for a livable planet that belongs to all of us has deep  
19 intersections between racial justice, climate action,  
20 and people-powered change.

21 We appreciate President Biden and his  
22 Administration for following through on promises to



1 address climate action and environmental justice by  
2 reversing the previous Administration's attacks on  
3 clean car standards, but by acting swiftly on these  
4 rules the Administration has acknowledged the  
5 importance of tackling climate pollution for  
6 transportation.

7 But we need the boldest and strongest possible  
8 clean car standards to truly make good of these  
9 commitments. We cannot afford a rule that locks in  
10 more climate pollution.

11 It's time for the Biden Administration to  
12 reinstate our strongest tool against climate change and  
13 go beyond the standards President Obama set nearly a  
14 decade ago.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

17 The next speaker will be Molly Rauch. Molly, you  
18 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
19 the record.

20 MS. RAUCH: Good morning. I'm Molly Rauch with  
21 Moms Clean Air Force.

22 Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify

1 today.

2 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
3 climate pollution in the U.S. Cleaning up this  
4 pollution is one of the most important things we can do  
5 to fight climate change.

6 On behalf of the more than one million members of  
7 Moms Clean Air Force, I'm asking EPA to finalize the  
8 strongest possible greenhouse gas emissions standards  
9 for light-duty vehicles.

10 Today and tomorrow you will hear from dozens of  
11 Moms Clean Air Force staff and members from across the  
12 country and thousands more of us will be submitting  
13 comment into the public docket on this proposal.

14 We are here and speaking out because we see it as  
15 our primary responsibility as parents to safeguard our  
16 children's health and future.

17 The latest IPCC report, as you've heard, released  
18 earlier this month has affirmed that we are living in  
19 an unequivocal climate crisis, but we don't need a UN  
20 report to tell us what so many of us are experiencing  
21 in our own communities.

22 Searing heat waves, staggering wildfires, terrible

1 floods, unprecedented rainfall, choking drought, this  
2 affects us all. My teenage son is an athlete who  
3 trains outside in the summer. He's playing football  
4 here in D.C. where we live and his team started daily  
5 practices last week. We've had several heat emergency  
6 days and today is a Code Orange air day for ozone.

7 We have historical average of 11 dangerously hot  
8 days each year in D.C., but in the 2020s, in this  
9 decade, we're projected to have 18 every year and by  
10 the 2050s heat emergencies in D.C. are projected to  
11 increase to 30 to 45 days each and every year. This is  
12 hard on my son's body and it will harm the health of  
13 athletes like him in the future.

14 At Moms Clean Air Force, we appreciate that the  
15 Biden Administration is prioritizing climate action and  
16 has pledged a 50 percent reduction of climate pollution  
17 from 2005 levels by 2030. Now EPA must finalize the  
18 strongest possible standards to cut pollution from  
19 cars.

20 EPA's proposal details several options. The  
21 preferred alternative, the quote unquote preferred  
22 alternate, includes loopholes for automakers that may

1     undermine the pollution reduction targets.  Alternative  
2     2 is the stronger option that would reduce climate  
3     pollution faster, putting 400,000 extra electric  
4     vehicles on the road by 2026 and resulting in a 130  
5     million metric tons fewer greenhouse gas emissions  
6     among other significant benefits, including billions in  
7     economic benefits.  This is the better option and Moms  
8     want you to go with Alternative 2.

9             We need 100 percent of new car sales to be zero  
10     emissions by 2035.  To reach that goal the near-term  
11     standards for climate pollution must be as strong as  
12     possible as soon as possible.

13            Please finalize the strongest possible climate  
14     pollution limits on cars and light trucks to help  
15     protect our children's health and future from the  
16     climate crisis.

17            Thank you.

18            MS. THOMPSON:  Thank you for your comment.

19            As a reminder, if you are speaking today you will  
20     receive a notification on your screen that you are  
21     being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
22     your speaking time.

1           You must accept that invitation to be able to  
2 unmute when you are called to testify. This will allow  
3 you to turn on your camera which we encourage you to  
4 do. Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
5 their phones when called to testify.

6           If you're having technical difficulties, please  
7 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
8 919-294-7712.

9           Additionally, if you are not registered to speak  
10 but you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th,  
11 please send an e-mail with your name and phone number  
12 to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

13           The next speaker will be Susan Hendershot. You  
14 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
15 the record.

16           REV. HENDERSHOT: Thank you. My name is Reverend  
17 Susan Hendershot, and I am here today as the President  
18 of Interfaith Power & Light, and as an ordained  
19 clergywoman in the Christian Church Disciples of  
20 Christ.

21           IPL's mission is to inspire and mobilize people of  
22 faith and conscience to take bold and just action on

1 climate change. I speak on behalf of our 40 state  
2 affiliates, more than 22,000 congregations, and more  
3 than 6.5 million people of faith who are a part of our  
4 national network urging the Biden Administration and  
5 the EPA to enact the strongest and boldest standards to  
6 reduce vehicle pollution, at least as stringent as  
7 those in Proposal 2.

8 While our Interfaith Power & Light network  
9 includes people of faith from diverse religious  
10 traditions, I would like to speak to you from the  
11 perspective of my own tradition which is Christianity.

12 In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is asked the  
13 question, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the  
14 greatest?" He answers, "You shall love the Lord, your  
15 God, with all your heart and with all your soul and  
16 with all your mind. This is the greatest and first  
17 commandment and the second is like it. "You shall love  
18 your neighbor as yourself."

19 Ultimately, my advocacy, my testimony here, and  
20 the work of people of faith around this country who  
21 have been supporting strongest vehicle standards for  
22 years is about living out that love for God and

1 neighbor.

2 When we love God, we protect what God has given us  
3 as a gift to be nurtured and tended. When we love our  
4 neighbor, we don't pollute their air, their land, or  
5 their water.

6 At this moment in time, we have a choice. The  
7 just-released IPCC report makes it startlingly clear  
8 there is no time to waste in half measures or catering  
9 to the interests of industry and manufacturing. We  
10 have already locked our children and grandchildren into  
11 a future on this planet that will have more heat waves,  
12 more drought, more extreme weather, and more fires than  
13 we are experiencing right now.

14 We have an actual opportunity here with vehicle  
15 standards that can make a difference in lowering the  
16 amount of air pollution that is impacting people's  
17 health and in lowering greenhouse gas emissions that  
18 are driving the climate crisis, but we can't wait. We  
19 can't grant loopholes to auto manufacturers.

20 Ultimately, we are accountable to each other, to  
21 our children, to our elders, to front line communities  
22 that are suffering disproportionately.

1           We are accountable to the sacred responsibility  
2           that we have been given by virtue of our covenant with  
3           God in whatever way God is known to us. Specifically,  
4           I ask you to restore national standards and revise them  
5           beyond levels set during the Obama/Biden  
6           Administration, to establish a 2030 standard for cars  
7           and light-duty trucks that achieves fleet average  
8           greenhouse gas emissions 60 percent or more below  
9           today's average, put the nation on a trajectory to make  
10          all new cars and light-duty trucks electric vehicles no  
11          later than 2035, which requires at least 60 percent to  
12          be electric by 2030, and ensure all new trucks and  
13          buses are zero emission no later than 2040.

14          Thank you for holding this hearing and for the  
15          opportunity to speak today. May God grant you wisdom  
16          and guidance as you seek the common good. Thank you.

17          MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

18          The next speaker will be Gabriel Filippelli. You  
19          may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
20          the record.

21          MR. FILIPPELLI: Hello. I'm Professor Gabriel  
22          Filippelli. I'm a Chancellor's Professor of Earth



1 Sciences at Indiana University where I also direct the  
2 Center for Urban Health.

3 I'm going to reiterate some of the excellent  
4 points brought up by the former speakers but add a  
5 little bit more of a health twist to some of this.

6 So, of course, the IPCC report that landed last  
7 week was a shock to the world, but it was not a shock  
8 to scientists like myself. I've been studying climate  
9 change and climate change impacts for about 30 years,  
10 and I've not only read most of the studies summarized  
11 in that but produced many of them.

12 And so for us scientists, it's been very clear for  
13 quite some time that climate change is a critical  
14 global issue and we also know that transportation, of  
15 course, is a large contributor to climate change, but  
16 it is also a contributor to something that I study here  
17 even locally Indianapolis and that's air pollution.

18 Now air pollution from transportation has severe  
19 impacts on urban populations and as stated earlier, it  
20 really does disproportionately impact our lower-income  
21 brown and black communities and we have research  
22 ongoing that shows just that.

1           Now I think COVID, the horrors of COVID also  
2 brought an important window for us to view some of  
3 these climate and air quality impacts through. The  
4 COVID shutdowns markedly cleared the air around the  
5 world, but it also cleared the air right here in the  
6 U.S. in cities and towns and we just published a study  
7 in the Journal Sustainability that shows how much that  
8 clearance was.

9           In the two major months of COVID shutdowns, the  
10 concentration of NO2 dioxides, which is a severe lung  
11 irritant, the concentration in the atmosphere dropped  
12 by 20 to 40 percent in major cities across the country.

13           This drop wasn't because of a reduction in energy  
14 production. It was a reduction in transportation.  
15 This was the lockdown which kept people at home and  
16 those are people largely with the light vehicles and  
17 light-duty truck sectors.

18           So what we saw was a very clear shutdown which  
19 inevitably resulted in a significant, although only  
20 temporary, improvement in public health in cities and  
21 towns around this country.

22           Now wouldn't it be nice if we were intentional

1 about that and that's exactly what some of these air  
2 quality standards have to be written for, written not  
3 to just look at climate change in a global sense but  
4 also to improve the air for our children in cities like  
5 mine in Indianapolis and across this country, and I  
6 think that that will require some significant  
7 sharpening of some of these standards perhaps even  
8 beyond what was stated initially as preferred  
9 solutions.

10 So I encourage you to do this. I encourage you to  
11 do this for global climate, but I encourage you to do  
12 this for kids' right here in Indianapolis.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

15 MS. MORAN: This is Robin Moran from EPA, on the  
16 EPA panel. I would just like to ask you about the  
17 study that you just referenced, will you be putting  
18 that in the docket for the public record?

19 MR. FILIPPELLI: I will. It's an open access  
20 study. So anyone can read it, but I'll make sure to  
21 include that and that was my intention. Thank you.

22 MS. MORAN: Excellent. Thank you so much.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

2 The next speaker will be Andrea Marpillero-  
3 Colomina. You may now unmute and state your name and  
4 affiliation for the record.

5 MS. MARPILLERO-COLOMINA: Thank you so much.

6 My name is Andrea Marpillero-Colomina, and I am a  
7 clean transportation advocate at GreenLatinos.

8 We are an active community of Latino environmental  
9 and conservation champions fighting against climate  
10 change and environmental degradation that intensifies  
11 systemic social health and economic injustice in our  
12 communities.

13 I thank this Administration for acting swiftly on  
14 clean cars but urge the EPA to create the strongest  
15 possible limits on vehicle pollution as it reconsiders  
16 the previous Administration's attacks on clean car  
17 standards.

18 These new standards will continue to promote  
19 innovation throughout the automotive industry and will  
20 ensure that the U.S. remains an auto industry leader,  
21 but I urge you to keep these standards as originally  
22 designed to ensure the greatest reductions in oil use

1 in global warming emissions and protect communities  
2 from pollution and emissions impacts.

3 I'm here today because I'm very concerned on  
4 behalf of my organization about the urgent need to  
5 create and support the implementation of stringent  
6 clean vehicle standards in order to mitigate the  
7 impacts of tailpipe emissions for Latino communities.

8 As you may know, a recent nationwide study found  
9 that Latino children are three times more likely than  
10 non-Hispanic white children to live in counties where  
11 air quality standards are poor and nearly one-third of  
12 Latino children live in counties where hazardous air  
13 pollutant concentrations exceed the one-in-10,000  
14 cancer risk level. Emissions from cars are literally  
15 killing children.

16 A year-long study of 756 asthmatic Latino children  
17 from inner city urban areas showed that participants  
18 who live near a freeway were significantly more likely  
19 to have asthma that was not well controlled and it is  
20 well known that Latinos are twice as likely to visit  
21 the emergency room for asthma than whites, and Latino  
22 children are twice as likely to die from asthma as

1 their white counterparts.

2 Strong standards can prevent this exposure and  
3 these completely unnecessary deaths. EPA must set the  
4 strongest possible federal clean car standards to  
5 ensure that we are protecting families from vehicle  
6 pollution, saving drivers' money at the pump and  
7 fighting climate change.

8 This means restoring standards to at least the  
9 levels set by the Obama/Biden Administration and even  
10 stronger than the Obama-era standards. By implementing  
11 the strongest possible fuel economy standards, the EPA  
12 would also be following through on its commitment to  
13 environmental justice because issuing stronger clean  
14 car standards will help address key transportation-  
15 related impacts of pollution.

16 Again, I urge this Administration to act on this  
17 important opportunity to make our cars and light-duty  
18 trucks more efficient and better for families.

19 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

20 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

21 The next speaker will be Jared Snyder. You may  
22 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the

1 record.

2 MR. SNYDER: Good morning. I'm Jared Snyder, the  
3 Deputy Commissioner for Climate, Air, and Energy at the  
4 New York State Department of Environmental  
5 Conservation.

6 New York supports the strongest possible EPA  
7 action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from  
8 vehicles. Each year brings new evidence of the  
9 seriousness of climate change and this summer provided  
10 almost daily reminders of the climate crisis.

11 Recognizing the urgency in 2019, New York  
12 established the Climate Leadership and Community  
13 Protection Act which establishes the nation's most  
14 aggressive emission targets, including achieving a  
15 carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

16 Over the past five years New York and two dozen  
17 other states in the Climate Alliance have led with  
18 policies to support the clean vehicles transition. New  
19 York is investing more than \$1 billion in zero emission  
20 cars, trucks, buses, and charging infrastructure over  
21 the next five years, including an \$85 million  
22 competition to deploy innovative strategies in

1 communities overburdened by vehicle emissions.

2       These state policies provide EPA with a solid  
3 foundation to reverse the prior Administration's  
4 backsliding. National leadership is needed now and EPA  
5 should adopt the most aggressive regulations feasible  
6 to make optimal use of existing technologies.

7       Based on their multiyear design and engineering  
8 process, manufacturers are ready to meet the 2012  
9 standards. Last summer five manufacturers representing  
10 one-third of the U.S. market committed to emission  
11 reductions through 2026 at rates comparable to those  
12 proposed by EPA and many manufacturers have stated  
13 recently that they intend to produce ZEVs exclusively  
14 or almost exclusively by 2035.

15       EPA's proposal would effectively restore the  
16 pathway provided by EPA's 2012 standards, providing a  
17 solid foundation for the further action that EPA can  
18 and must build upon. Importantly, the proposal will  
19 also reduce ozone pollution across the country,  
20 providing substantial public health benefits,  
21 particularly to communities overburdened by air  
22 pollution, and it will also provide the average



1 consumer close to \$2,000 in fuel savings over the life  
2 of a vehicle if they're buying electric vehicles and  
3 create jobs in the burgeoning clean vehicle sector.

4 EPA should finalize this rule and immediately turn  
5 to establishing new rules to achieve President Biden's  
6 goal that 50 percent of all passenger vehicles sold in  
7 2030 will be zero emission.

8 As the Governors of New York and 11 other states  
9 recommended this April, those rules should guide the  
10 transition to the sale of only zero emission vehicles  
11 by 2035, putting the nation back on track and reducing  
12 transportation emissions at this critical moment.

13 The climate crisis is here now and steadfast  
14 leadership from the Federal Government and state  
15 governments alike is needed to protect our planet and  
16 create the jobs of the future.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

19 The next speaker will be James Flynn. Please  
20 state your name and affiliation for the record.

21 MR. FLYNN: Good morning. My name's James Flynn.  
22 I'm the Senior Policy Advisor for Fleet Transportation

1 at the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use  
2 Management.

3 NESCO is the regional association of state air  
4 quality agencies in the Northeast. We serve as a  
5 technical and policy advisor to our members and  
6 facilitate multistate initiatives to accelerate  
7 electric vehicle adoption.

8 For more than three decades NESCO and its members  
9 have closely collaborated with California and other  
10 states, EPA, and the auto industry to promote low and  
11 zero emission vehicles.

12 My testimony focuses on the urgent need to address  
13 the climate crisis and justification nor the strongest  
14 possible federal emission standards for light-duty  
15 vehicles.

16 As an initial matter, NESCO appreciates the  
17 Administration's renewed commitment reflected in EPA's  
18 proposed rule and recent Executive Orders to coordinate  
19 the states leading the way in reducing vehicle  
20 emissions, including those states that adopt  
21 California's emission standards.

22 Indeed, seven of NESCO's states have done that

1 and exercised their authority under Section 177 of the  
2 Clean Air Act to meet California's Advanced Clean Cars  
3 Standards.

4 The public health, environmental, and economic  
5 costs of climate change impacts, such as increasing  
6 heat waves, drought, sea level rise, flooding, and  
7 wildfires are mounting. Transportation is the largest  
8 source of GHGs in the U.S. and light-duty vehicles are  
9 the largest contributor of those emissions. Mitigating  
10 the climate crisis will require substantial reductions  
11 in GHG emissions from motor vehicles.

12 Light-duty cars and trucks are also a major source  
13 of particulate matter, air toxics, and ozone quality  
14 pollutants that harm public health. Significant  
15 portions of the Northeast are not meeting federal ozone  
16 standards. Climate change is expected to exacerbate  
17 tropic sphere ozone levels.

18 Low-income communities, communities of color, and  
19 indigenous populations in the Northeast are  
20 particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate  
21 change and are disproportionately impacted by air  
22 pollution.

1           There is ample justification for strong national  
2 GHG standards that recover and restore the benefits of  
3 the national program adopted by EPA in 2012. Zero  
4 emission vehicle technology has advanced rapidly since  
5 then and the pace of innovation has only accelerated  
6 since EPA confirmed those standards to be  
7 technologically feasible and appropriate during the  
8 2018 Term Evaluation.

9           Battery costs continue to decline. Many  
10 automakers have announced plans to electrify some or  
11 all of their fleets. In the 2019 Framework Agreement  
12 several manufacturers voluntarily agreed to comply with  
13 California's GHG emission reduction targets for Model  
14 Year 2026 across their national vehicle fleets,  
15 notwithstanding the unjustified weakening of federal  
16 and GHG standards in the Safe Vehicles Rule.

17           For many years NESCOM's members have been at the  
18 forefront of community transportation policy, including  
19 by adopting California's light-duty vehicle emission  
20 standards, and are committed to the rapid  
21 electrification of the entire light-duty fleet.

22           Strong national standards are a critical building

1 block for state efforts to accelerate the transition to  
2 electric vehicles to achieve substantial reductions in  
3 GHG and criteria fleet emissions.

4 For these reasons, NESCOM urges EPA to swiftly  
5 adopt the most stringent GHG emission standards for  
6 light-duty vehicles feasible for Model Years 2023  
7 through 2026 and to act quickly to propose ambitious  
8 post-Model Year 2026 standards.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to present this  
10 testimony.

11 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

12 The next speaker will be Rasto Brezny. You may  
13 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
14 record.

15 MR. BREZNY: Good morning. I'm Rasto Brezny, the  
16 Executive Director for the Manufacturers of Emission  
17 Controls Association.

18 We'll submit more detailed comments in writing,  
19 but today I'd like to speak to a few specific aspects  
20 relevant to EPA's revision of these standards.

21 MECA is a nonprofit association of the world's  
22 leading manufacturers of clean vehicle technology,

1 including emission control, engine efficiency, and the  
2 full complement of electrified and electric propulsion  
3 technologies.

4 Our economy has benefited in hundreds of thousands  
5 of jobs among clean technology suppliers who have  
6 located plants here in the U.S. to respond to the need  
7 established by environmental standards.

8 MECA members are commercializing the technologies  
9 needed to meet the Administration's goal of  
10 transitioning transportation to a net zero emission  
11 future.

12 Over the past 50 years the most stringent  
13 standards in the U.S. have provided domestic suppliers  
14 with a competitive advantage through the early adoption  
15 and optimization of technologies on vehicles. The  
16 original 2012 greenhouse gas standards allowed  
17 suppliers to rapidly introduce new technologies to the  
18 market and just a few years later, when EPA conducted  
19 their midterm review, the pace and breadth of  
20 technology options for compliance grew and the cost  
21 reduced beyond the agency's initial projections.

22 The recent weakening of greenhouse gas standards

1 in 2018 have left many of these technologies on the  
2 shelf and put the U.S. behind other strong auto  
3 manufacturing regions, like Europe and China, where CO2  
4 standards have continued to tighten. It's no surprise  
5 that suppliers invest where the standards demand their  
6 technologies.

7 Therefore, MECA supports EPA's reconsideration of  
8 the light-duty greenhouse gas standards out to 2026 and  
9 further consideration of standards for Model Year 2027  
10 and beyond.

11 Our members depend on long-term regulatory  
12 certainty to justify their investments that will allow  
13 the U.S. to meet our national climate objectives and  
14 ensure that our technology suppliers remain globally  
15 competitive.

16 We agree with staff's conclusion that the majority  
17 of the improvements out to 2026 are achievable through  
18 broader deployment of existing technologies already  
19 available for combustion engines and vehicles with  
20 electrified power trains.

21 Performance-based standards are a proven method  
22 for meeting environmental goals through a diversity of

1 technology solutions.

2 MECA supports EPA's continuation of the Off-Cycle  
3 Credit Program with a higher credit cap in order to  
4 provide the benefit of verifiable greenhouse gas  
5 emission reductions by all technological means.

6 We encourage EPA to continue to improve and expand  
7 the Off-Cycle Program by sharing data and resources  
8 with NHTSA and CARB as well as adding a supplier-  
9 initiated process for conditional credits, like that  
10 included in the California Framework.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to speak today and  
12 I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

13 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

14 The next speaker on our list is Evan Fehsenfeld.  
15 Evan, it appears that you are not currently on the list  
16 of attendees. However, if you have joined using your  
17 phone today or are listed under a different name,  
18 please use the raised hand feature and we'll promote  
19 you to panelist at this time.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will move on to the next  
22 speaker on our list at this time.



1           The next speaker will be Chris Bliley. You may  
2 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
3 record.

4           MR. BLILEY: Thanks. My name is Chris Bliley, and  
5 I'm the Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for  
6 Growth Energy.

7           Growth Energy is the world's largest association  
8 of biofuel producers. Together, we remain committed to  
9 helping our country diversify its energy portfolio in  
10 order to grow more green energy jobs, decarbonizes our  
11 nation's energy mix, sustain family farms, and drive  
12 down the costs of transportation fuel for consumers.

13           We appreciate EPA's work to reshape the nation's  
14 transportation mix to make it more sustainable as it's  
15 a central driver for our industry, as well.

16           Vehicles and fuels operate as a system and liquid  
17 fuels will continue to play a dominant role in the  
18 transportation sector for decades to come even as  
19 alternative technologies flourish.

20           As such, it's imperative to consider the vital  
21 role that environmentally-sustainable fuel options,  
22 such as ethanol, will play in reducing greenhouse gas

1 emissions from the current and future vehicle fleet.

2 Ethanol is an available and affordable means to  
3 immediately clean up our liquid fuel supply. Recent  
4 data from EH&E showed today's corn ethanol reduces GHG  
5 emissions by an average of 46 percent compared to  
6 gasoline and can provide reductions of up to 70 percent  
7 with the use of readily-available technologies.

8 Ethanol's other environmental benefits are also  
9 noteworthy. As has been researched, the use of ethanol  
10 reduces air toxics, such as carbon monoxide and  
11 benzene.

12 With a stable policy and access to drivers, we  
13 believe we can deliver low-carbon, low-cost, high  
14 performing-vehicle solutions that reduce GHG emissions  
15 now and well into the future.

16 Today, E15 is approved for all 2001 and newer  
17 vehicles, more than 95 percent of today's vehicle  
18 fleet. One recent study found that by moving to E15  
19 nationwide we can immediately reduce GHG emissions by  
20 more than 17 million tons, the equivalent of taking  
21 nearly four million cars off the road. Also, by using  
22 E85 in the millions of flex fuel vehicles on the road

1 today, even greater reductions in GHG emissions and air  
2 toxics can be achieved.

3 Additionally, it's imperative to consider the  
4 benefits of using high-octane/low-carbon fuels to make  
5 engines more efficient.

6 Growth Energy's been a leader on the need for  
7 higher octane/low carbon fuels, first submitting a  
8 proposal for a 100-RON E30 fuel nearly a decade ago.

9 The science supporting the benefits of a high-  
10 octane/low-carbon mid-level blend in conjunction with a  
11 high-compression ratio engine is not new. It's been  
12 well explored by the National Labs, automobile  
13 manufacturers, and other scientific institutions.

14 To achieve these important benefits we urge EPA to  
15 provide strong and clear policy to encourage the  
16 adoption of high-octane/low-carbon biofuel blends.

17 One, EPA should take action to encourage the use of  
18 blends, such as E15 and E85, in today's vehicle fleet.

19 Two, EPA should require a minimum octane standard.

20 Higher octane fuels give automakers flexibility to meet  
21 these proposed standards. Three, EPA should approve a  
22 high-octane mid-level ethanol blend for vehicle

1 certification, such as a 100-RON E30 that we first  
2 proposed. Four, EPA and NHTSA should work together to  
3 re-establish credits for the production of flex fuel  
4 vehicles. Five, EPA should establish strong RFS  
5 volumes for '21, '22 and well into the future, and six  
6 and finally, I'd like to reiterate the call for EPA to  
7 provide a solution on vapor pressure for all ethanol  
8 blends above 10 percent.

9 Thank you in advance for your consideration and  
10 look forward to working with you on fuel solutions to  
11 achieve meaningful improvement in air quality.

12 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

13 As a brief reminder, if you are speaking today,  
14 you will receive a notification on your screen that you  
15 are being promoted to the role of panelist shortly  
16 prior to your speaking time. You must accept that  
17 invitation to be able to unmute when you are called to  
18 testify. This will also allow you to turn on your  
19 camera which we encourage you to do.

20 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
21 their phones when called to testify.

22 If you are having technical difficulties, please

1 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
2 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
3 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
4 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
5 [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

6 The next speaker will be Senator Tom Daschle. You  
7 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
8 the record.

9 SENATOR DASCHLE: Good morning. My name is Tom  
10 Daschle, and I'm speaking today as the Chair of the  
11 High Octane Low Carbon Alliance.

12 I'm pleased to be here on behalf of our members,  
13 the National Farmers Union, the Clean Fuels Development  
14 Coalition, the Renewable Fuels Association, and the  
15 National Corn Growers Association.

16 We convened the Alliance to advocate for high-  
17 octane/low-carbon fuels, particularly higher ethanol  
18 blends, as an affordable and cleaner source of  
19 transportation fuel.

20 As noted in the proposed rule, automakers are  
21 making significant investments to help the country  
22 achieve the Administration's goals of cutting carbon

1 emissions by half by 2030 and by reaching a net zero  
2 economy by 2050.

3 Automakers have acknowledged that the average age  
4 of a vehicle in the United States is now roughly 12  
5 years and therefore a large portion of the vehicles  
6 will continue to rely on liquid fuels for years to  
7 come. Therefore, they're continuing to invest in  
8 vehicle improvements that increase fuel economy and  
9 reduce greenhouse gases and internal combustion engine  
10 vehicles, many of which can be enhanced or complemented  
11 with the use of high-octane/low-carbon fuels.

12 High ethanol blends have the ability to  
13 immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions for light-  
14 duty vehicles by more than a hundred million metric  
15 tons annually, more than the proposed rule will achieve  
16 in any future year.

17 Higher ethanol blends can also substantially  
18 reduce particulate emissions from gasoline that is  
19 harming people's health and leading to premature death  
20 and which disproportionately harms communities of  
21 color.

22 Finally, these blends can reduce the demand for

1 imported oil by roughly one million barrels per day  
2 with multiple economic and national security benefits.

3 For these reasons, we are deeply disappointed by  
4 the failure of EPA to request comment on the role of  
5 higher-octane/low-carbon fuels to advance the  
6 Administration's climate, public health, and  
7 environmental justice objectives.

8 We note EPA's recognition that, in addition to  
9 substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a  
10 longer-term rulemaking could also address criteria,  
11 pollutant, and air toxic emissions from the new light-  
12 duty vehicle fleet, and we urge the agency to use that  
13 rulemaking to propose a high-octane fuel standard.

14 We look forward to responding to your request for  
15 comment in the proposed rule on increasing the  
16 stringency for Mileage Year 2026 which can be achieved  
17 with the widespread adoption of higher-octane/low-  
18 carbon fuels.

19 And finally, we ask the agency to signal in the  
20 final rule its intention for 2027 and beyond to enable  
21 automakers to optimize the benefits of higher-  
22 octane/low-carbon fuels in both new and existing

1 internal combustion engines.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

4 The next speaker will be Admiral Dennis Blair.

5 You may now unmute and state your name and affiliation  
6 for the record.

7 ADMIRAL BLAIR: Good morning. My name is Dennis  
8 Blair. I serve as the Third Director of National  
9 Intelligence and before that Commander-in-Chief of the  
10 U.S. Pacific Command, and I offer this testimony as  
11 Chairman of SAFE, an organization that was founded in  
12 2004 to reduce our nation's dependence on oil as both  
13 an economic and a national security priority.

14 We know that for some years oil will continue to  
15 be the lifeblood of our transportation sector  
16 underwriting our entire economy. We're the world's  
17 largest oil consumer, accounting for 21 percent of  
18 global consumption and two-thirds of that is used in  
19 transportation, and this dependence exposes our  
20 economy. It constricts our foreign policy.

21 Oil is a volatile commodity. The price is set on  
22 a worldwide market. It's subject to spikes in price



1 from many different factors and supply disruptions  
2 anywhere can affect prices everywhere, including to  
3 Americans, and oil is subject to unpredictable anti-  
4 free market actions from OPEC and hostile OPEC+  
5 nations, like Russia.

6 As the Administration's recent plea to OPEC+ to  
7 increase oil production shows, we remain beholden to  
8 their actions to keep prices low for Americans who are  
9 the ones who bear the brunt of our dependence when oil  
10 prices spike.

11 And while the rulemaking cost-benefit process of  
12 EPA does not consider the U.S. military budgets that  
13 are spent to protect the global oil supply, SAFE has  
14 conservatively calculated this burden as at least \$80  
15 billion a year, adding to the real price that we are  
16 paying for oil.

17 And because of these factors, long-term demand-  
18 side measures to reduce our transportation sector oil  
19 consumption are our most effective weapon to counter  
20 this oil dependence.

21 And as a result of this line of thinking, we  
22 support robust, I say robust greenhouse gas emission

1 standards proposed by EPA. SAFE is in favor of  
2 revising the current rules to be as stringent as  
3 technically possible.

4 Now there are other factors at work in this  
5 complex energy transportation picture. Transportation  
6 worldwide is going electric and electricity in the U.S.  
7 comes from fuel that is both domestic and diverse in  
8 its source as well as low and stable in price.

9 Electrification of the transportation sector will  
10 ultimately eliminate the economic and national security  
11 consequences of our current dependence on petroleum.  
12 However, in the meantime, we need fuel-efficient  
13 vehicles to use as little oil as possible as well as  
14 high domestic production to ensure an adequate  
15 worldwide oil supply so that prices are low and stable.

16 A caution, however. China has jumped to an early  
17 lead and an early control over electric vehicle and  
18 battery supply chains from minerals to markets. The  
19 revised standards proposed by EPA not only make  
20 conventional vehicles more efficient but they should  
21 also accelerate the development of the domestic  
22 electric vehicle market to support an American EV

1 industry using supply chains that are safe from Chinese  
2 influence.

3 Accelerating this development is vital. If we do  
4 not compete, if we do not build our EV market, the  
5 United States risks trading its dependence on an  
6 unstable oil market dominated by nations that do not  
7 share our interests to a reliance on Chinese domestic  
8 policy for the minerals, components, and batteries that  
9 will power our economy in the 21st Century.

10 So it's important for this shift to an electrified  
11 transportation sector, including ground transportation,  
12 to happen as soon as possible, to spur investment in a  
13 robust domestic EV supply chain.

14 American car companies can increase production of  
15 EVs to more than 50 percent of all vehicle production  
16 without stranding investments and with minimal  
17 workforce disruption.

18 We recommend that in preparing its final rule, EPA  
19 ensure that the extensions of the shelf life of  
20 previously-earned greenhouse gas emission credits do  
21 not slow this vital process down.

22 In summary, as transportation goes electric, more

1 stringent mileage standards will be vital in  
2 accelerating U.S. efforts to lead that shift.

3 Thank you for the chance to offer this testimony  
4 and my organization SAFE stands ready to support  
5 however we can. Thank you.

6 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

7 The next speaker will be Shaina Oliver. You may  
8 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
9 record.

10 MS. OLIVER: Hello?

11 MS. THOMPSON: We can hear you.

12 MS. OLIVER: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for  
13 providing public comment today.

14 I want to remind everyone that we are on stolen  
15 land of over 574 Indigenous tribes of North America.

16 My name is Shaina Oliver, and I live on ancestral  
17 lands of the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Ute Nations,  
18 including the 45 tribes that once occupied the state of  
19 Colorado.

20 I'm a field organizer for Moms Clean Air Force and  
21 Eco Madres of Colorado Chapter. I'm an advocate for  
22 Indigenous People's Rights to clean air, water, lands,

1 and health. Moms Clean Air Force is united in fighting  
2 for all children's right to a safe and healthy  
3 environment.

4 Most importantly, I'm an Indigenous mother of four  
5 and we are the descendants of the genocide known as the  
6 Indian Removal Act and known as the Long Walk of the  
7 Navajo. These types of policy violations have had a  
8 historic impact on Indigenous People's communities,  
9 health, wealth, and environmental well-being. Its  
10 impacts continue to be felt today in the form of lack  
11 of Indigenous representation and extractive capitalism,  
12 decisions made about resource extraction continue to  
13 hurt our communities of color, often as low-income  
14 community members.

15 As a tribal member, I have seen the devastation of  
16 the degraded lands and the dwindling of birds,  
17 butterflies, bees. Our ancestral lands continue to be  
18 sacrificed for mining, drilling, and infrastructure of  
19 all sorts.

20 Pollution from cars and trucks, including heavy-  
21 duty vehicles, degrades quality air and threatens our  
22 health.

1 I support this Administration's proposal to  
2 strengthen protection for clean car standards that will  
3 protect all children's health and future. As a  
4 Colorado resident, myself and my family have  
5 experienced the worst air quality this past summer of  
6 air quality levels above a 120 levels according to the  
7 IQ Air Report by 9News Colorado.

8 I urge this Administration to move forward on  
9 setting ambitious federal clean car standards would be  
10 a step in the right direction. The transportation  
11 sector is the largest source of carbon pollution in the  
12 U.S. Cleaning up vehicle pollution is one of the most  
13 important things we can do to fight climate change.

14 It is the Indigenous, black, Latino, and low-  
15 income communities who bear the disproportionate burden  
16 of air pollution and segregation has led to our  
17 communities being located by highways and industrial  
18 zones that impact our health.

19 Many people like myself bear the health burdens of  
20 pollution, such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease,  
21 respiratory illness, cancer, adverse birth outcomes,  
22 and COVID-19 has become one more health burden our

1 communities disproportionately bear.

2 I've been living with asthma since my infancy and  
3 worsening air quality due to heat and wildfires related  
4 to climate change have a direct impact on my ability to  
5 breath.

6 Protective clean car standards will save lives in  
7 communities like mine because over 26 million people in  
8 the United States are burdened with asthma, including  
9 more than six million children.

10 With recent reports from the Intergovernment Panel  
11 on Climate Change confirms that climate change is  
12 widespread, rapid, and intensified, reconfirming the  
13 warnings Indigenous knowledge-keepers have been raising  
14 for years.

15 We must rethink of our next generation's future  
16 and livability standards and access to clean air,  
17 water, soil and health.

18 President Biden has promised to address climate  
19 change and fight for environmental justice. By acting  
20 swiftly on clean cars, the Administration has taken an  
21 important step to tackling climate pollution from  
22 transportation.

1 Colorado State of the Air Report by the American  
2 Lung Association just gave us an F for ozone pollution.  
3 So we cannot stand by and lose another opportunity to  
4 strengthen a path to a hundred percent zero emissions  
5 new vehicle sales by 2035.

6 Colorado moms, dads, and caregivers are counting  
7 on your leadership and unity for all children's right  
8 to breathe and play in a safe and healthy environment.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

11 The next speaker will be Almeta Cooper. You may  
12 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
13 record.

14 MS. COOPER: Good morning. My name is Almeta  
15 Cooper, and I'm the Georgia Field Coordinator for Moms  
16 Clean Air Force.

17 We are 26,645 members strong in Georgia and about  
18 one million moms and dads nationally. We fight for the  
19 recognition of the importance of equitable solutions in  
20 addressing air pollution and climate change.

21 I'm speaking to you today from Downtown Atlanta  
22 where I have lived for seven years. Metro Atlanta is



1 notoriously known for some of the worst traffic  
2 congestion in the nation. According to the U.S. Bureau  
3 of Transportation, from the outer edges of Fulton  
4 County commuters can average traveling as much as 80  
5 miles each work day.

6 Additionally, about 80 percent of the Fulton  
7 County's thousands of commuters travel by car daily and  
8 many are single occupants driving their vehicles.

9 Driving is the most harmful mode of transportation  
10 to the health of communities and is directly related to  
11 air quality. Therefore, it's no surprise that Fulton  
12 County was again flagged with a failing grade by the  
13 American Lung Association in its 2021 State of the Air  
14 Report.

15 So you can easily understand why clean car  
16 standards are important to me. Cleaning up vehicle  
17 pollution is one of the most important actions we can  
18 take as citizens to improve air quality and to fight  
19 the adverse impact of climate change.

20 As a mom, as an African American woman, and a  
21 member of my community, I care deeply about  
22 environmental justice, especially the connection

1 between climate change and health equity for our  
2 nation's most vulnerable populations.

3 I encourage the EPA to frequently consult with  
4 front line communities and environmental justice  
5 leaders to provide their input into decisions related  
6 to the design and implementation of EPA rules.

7 As a Georgian, I am witnessing my own state  
8 government trying to suppress the voice and vote of  
9 many Georgians by imposing rules that will have  
10 disparate adverse impact on communities of color.

11 There is a direct connection between climate  
12 change, clean air, and health. In the last month  
13 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
14 Change reported out that climate change is widespread,  
15 rapid, and intensifying, painting a grim picture of our  
16 world's future unless swift and strong intervention is  
17 taken immediately to curb the pollution causing global  
18 climate change.

19 Protecting public health means keeping everyone's  
20 air clean and safe to breathe and cutting greenhouse  
21 gas pollution. Because climate change affects us all,  
22 whether we live and work in suburban, rural, or urban

1 areas, we must unite in protecting clean air for our  
2 children.

3 In closing, on behalf of Georgia's moms, dads, and  
4 children, we ask that EPA finalize the strongest  
5 possible option to regulate how much and how quickly to  
6 limit climate pollution from cars and light trucks.

7 Please reject any alternative that contains big  
8 loopholes for automakers and that may undermine  
9 otherwise strong pollution reduction targets by 2026.  
10 We support Alternative Number 2.

11 Thank you again to the EPA and its staff for  
12 inviting public comment and permitting digital and  
13 remote testimony to allow for increased participation  
14 in public hearings.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

16 The next speaker will be Joel Levin. You may now  
17 unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
18 record.

19 MR. LEVIN: Good morning. I'm Joel Levin, the  
20 Executive Director of Plug In America, the National  
21 Association of Electric Vehicle Drivers. We represent  
22 the two million plus EV drivers on American roads

1 today.

2 We commend EPA for acting quickly on the clean car  
3 standards and given the choices, we would advocate for  
4 Alternative Number 2, although we're concerned that it  
5 is not nearly ambitious enough.

6 We are on track for EV sales to roughly double  
7 from last year to something around four percent market  
8 share for 2021. Thus, an aspiration to achieve eight  
9 percent EV market penetration by 2026 is just simply  
10 too cautious.

11 We would urge to go beyond these alternatives and  
12 establish standards that aim for 25 percent electric  
13 vehicle market share for 2026 which would put us on  
14 track to achieve a hundred percent electric vehicle  
15 market share by 2035 as many countries and many states  
16 have already committed to do.

17 For more than a decade American automaker Tesla  
18 has taken the world by storm showing true American  
19 leadership and, as noted in the proposal, many other  
20 automakers are now moving forward and have committed to  
21 reach 50 percent market share EVs by 2030.

22 This change in the American automotive landscape

1 needs to be more fully recognized. This is no longer  
2 2012 when the Obama standards came out. Times have  
3 changed and this proposal needs to more closely reflect  
4 today's realities rather than just continuing a trend  
5 from 10 years ago.

6 As it stands, this proposal is going to seem dated  
7 and quaint by the time we reach Model Year '26. This  
8 is EPA's chance to step out of the business as usual  
9 trend line and really step into a more ambitious goal  
10 that we and many others will fully support with the  
11 agency and the Federal Government.

12 In 1961 President John F. Kennedy called on  
13 America to land a man on the moon by the end of that  
14 decade. He launched a national mission that at its  
15 peak employed some 400,000 people and inspired a  
16 generation and it created technological advances that  
17 benefit us even now.

18 In his call for a \$174 billion package of support  
19 to electrify transportation, President Biden has shown  
20 the same level of transformational vision. We would  
21 challenge EPA to be no less visionary. This will  
22 enable us to assert American leadership in tomorrow's

1 energy and transportation technologies, to create  
2 millions of good-paying jobs across numerous  
3 industries, and to reclaim our skies and to protect  
4 future generations from the devastation of climate  
5 change.

6 So thank you very much.

7 MR. CHARMLEY: Mr. Levin, this is Bill Charmley.  
8 Can you hear me?

9 MR. LEVIN: Yes.

10 MR. CHARMLEY: Just one quick question. In your  
11 testimony you said that for 2021 that some data was  
12 indicating that for the U.S. we were on target to hit a  
13 four percent share this year.

14 That's information in your public testimony.  
15 Could you provide some additional information on that?  
16 That would be very helpful. Thank you.

17 MR. LEVIN: Yes, sure. We're a little bit over  
18 three and a half percent right now but it's  
19 accelerating. So the numbers I've seen are close to  
20 four percent by the end of the year, but, yes, I can  
21 share that.

22 MS. THOMPSON: Great. And thank you for your

1 comment.

2 The next speaker will be Noah Howe. You may now  
3 unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
4 record.

5 MR. HOWE: Good morning and thank you. My name is  
6 Noah B. Howe, and I'm the Manager of the Transportation  
7 Team at Ceres.

8 I'm testifying today on behalf of Carolee Ronn,  
9 Senior Director of Transportation.

10 Ceres coordinates the business for Innovative  
11 Climate and Energy Policy Network, a coalition of over  
12 70 major businesses. We also coordinate the Ceres  
13 Investor Network which includes 175 members with  
14 collectively nearly \$30 trillion in assets under  
15 management.

16 I'm here today to testify in support of the Biden  
17 Administration's Alternative 2 Proposal for updating  
18 the SAFE 2 regulations.

19 The U.S.'s ability to meet climate goals and the  
20 future competitiveness of the U.S. auto industry are  
21 both contingent on strong vehicle standards and a rapid  
22 shift to low-emission vehicles and electrification, and

1 Alternative 2 comes closest to realizing those goals.

2 Our companies and investors see climate change has  
3 a significant risk in reducing greenhouse gases as a  
4 major economic opportunity. Ceres analyses  
5 consistently show that weak standards generate fewer  
6 jobs while stronger standards support growth in the  
7 auto industry and throughout the U.S. economy.

8 Auto parts suppliers especially stand to lose  
9 under weakened standards. They employ 2.6 times more  
10 Americans than automakers and Ceres analyses found that  
11 the suppliers sector would have stood to lose \$20  
12 billion in sales of clean vehicle technologies from  
13 2021 to 2025 under the Trump Administration's rule.

14 We strongly support EPA adopting the strongest  
15 possible emissions standards and see this as a first of  
16 many steps it should take to reduce transportation  
17 emissions.

18 As you know, commercial vehicles are a major  
19 driver of emissions and transportation emissions  
20 disproportionately impact low-income and communities of  
21 color.

22 Transportation emissions-related health care are



1 also major cost centers for companies. Establishing  
2 higher standards for vehicle emissions will help to  
3 substantially lower emissions-related health care costs  
4 while simultaneously lowering their fuel costs.

5 Weak standards also undermine global  
6 competitiveness. U.S. auto industry offerings will not  
7 be aligned with global market demand without strong  
8 standards that drive investment in more efficient  
9 vehicles and electrification.

10 Additionally, strong standards insulate the auto  
11 industry from oil price spikes. The Standards Act is  
12 insurance against loss of U.S. auto industry market  
13 share if fuel prices spike as happened in the 2000s,  
14 particularly as they move towards larger, less fuel-  
15 efficient vehicles which now make up 51 percent of new  
16 vehicle sales.

17 The stronger standards represented by Alternative  
18 2 will accelerate the cost-effective deployment of  
19 fuel-efficient commercial vehicles, allow our members  
20 to meet financial and climate goals, and significantly  
21 reduce fuel costs for businesses and consumers.

22 We applaud EPA and the Biden Administration for

1 these initial steps. We also strongly urge that the  
2 next round of standards are aligned with climate goals  
3 by ensuring at least 50 percent EV sales by 2030 while  
4 ensuring requisite reductions in conventional vehicles  
5 in the interim.

6 Thank you and thank you for your time.

7 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

8 As a brief reminder, if you are speaking today you  
9 will receive a notification on your screen that you are  
10 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
11 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
12 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
13 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
14 encourage you to do.

15 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
16 their phones when called to testify.

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18 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
19 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
20 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
21 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
22 [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

1 At this time we will move forward to Speaker Block

2 2.

3 Speaker Block 2

4 MS. THOMPSON: The first speaker on our list is  
5 Liane Randolph. I'm not seeing Liane among the list of  
6 current attendees. However, if you have joined using a  
7 different name, we invite you to raise your hand and if  
8 you have joined using your phone, you can raise your  
9 hand by dialing Star 9.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will go ahead and move on  
12 to the next speaker on the list.

13 The next speaker will be Diana Van Vleet. You may  
14 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
15 record.

16 As a reminder, you will need to accept the  
17 invitation to be promoted to panelist.

18 MS. VAN VLEET: Hello. Can you hear me okay?

19 MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

20 MS. VAN VLEET: Thanks so much. Sorry about that.

21 Good morning. My name is Diana Van Vleet,

22 D-I-A-N-A V-A-N V-L-E-E-T, and I'm the National

1 Director of Outreach and Engagement for the American  
2 Lung Association Healthy Air Campaign.

3 Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak  
4 with you today.

5 First off, I'd like to express my thanks to  
6 President Biden and his Administration for  
7 acknowledging the importance of tackling climate  
8 pollution from transportation.

9 This proposal and the broader actions on clean  
10 cars from the Administration are a meaningful step in  
11 the right direction, but we need the strongest possible  
12 clean air cars standards to truly make good on  
13 President Biden's commitment on climate action and  
14 environmental justice.

15 We call on you to maximize the benefits of these  
16 standards for health, avoid loopholes or credit schemes  
17 that would leave health benefits on the table, and  
18 finalize them into law this year.

19 The need for action on climate change could not  
20 be more urgent. Earlier this month a report from the  
21 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that  
22 there is an extremely narrow window of time to act on

1 climate change after which point the worst impacts will  
2 be unavoidable.

3 Climate change is a public health emergency and  
4 the sooner we act the more lives we will save. Strong  
5 standards for cars are a critical step needed to slash  
6 greenhouse gas emissions.

7 Furthermore, the standards are very popular. I  
8 want to emphasize this important point. Americans want  
9 cleaner cars. In June the American Lung Association  
10 released a poll showing that 74 percent of American  
11 voters supported the Federal Government setting  
12 stronger standards on tailpipe emissions for passenger  
13 cars and trucks with the amount of emissions allowed  
14 declining over time.

15 Here's some more findings from that poll. 72  
16 percent of voters agreed that the nation should make  
17 significant investments in zero emission vehicles as  
18 part of efforts to rebuild the economy, 74 percent of  
19 voters support the Federal Government advancing  
20 policies to encourage a nationwide transition to  
21 electric vehicles, and 70 percent of voters support the  
22 Federal Government requiring that by 2040 all new

1 freight trucks, buses, and delivery vans sold in the  
2 U.S. must produce zero tailpipe emissions.

3 The bottom line: Americans across the political  
4 spectrum support specific policies to achieve a  
5 pollution-free transportation future. We must take  
6 action at every level to address climate change and  
7 reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to protect  
8 health and save lives and that includes cleaning up  
9 transportation pollution using the strongest possible  
10 standards.

11 Climate change poses unprecedented threats to the  
12 health of every American now and for every future  
13 generation. There is no time to delay.

14 The Biden Administration must use all available  
15 tools to promote the climate pollution reductions we so  
16 desperately need. Please make this propose as  
17 beneficial for health as possible and finalize it  
18 quickly and then move forward with bold future  
19 greenhouse gas standards for light- and heavy-duty  
20 vehicles that accelerate the critical transition to  
21 zero emission vehicles.

22 Thank you so much for your time.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

2 The next speaker will be Liane Randolph. You may  
3 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
4 record.

5 MS. RANDOLPH: Good morning. My name is Liane  
6 Randolph, and I am the Chair of the California Air  
7 Resources Board.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the  
9 critical importance of stringent and sensible light-  
10 duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission vehicle standards.

11 California welcomes this proposal from the U.S.  
12 Environmental Protection Agency to replace the federal  
13 standards that were irresponsibly relaxed by the  
14 previous Administration choosing to ignore longstanding  
15 principles of rulemaking, science, data, law, and a  
16 credible public process.

17 We need to take urgent action now and recover the  
18 progress that we have lost. Like your recent proposal  
19 to restore California's authority for its greenhouse  
20 gas emission and zero emission vehicle standards, which  
21 we encourage you to quickly finalize, this proposal  
22 returns to science and the Rule of Law as the

1 foundations of the agency's actions.

2 The need for stringent greenhouse emissions  
3 standards becomes more apparent by the day. Our skies  
4 are darkened by wildfire ash and our reservoirs are at  
5 alarming lows.

6 Further, research and data from around the world,  
7 such as that collected in the Sixth Assessment Report  
8 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,  
9 confirms the threat we all face: the climate crisis is  
10 accelerating and pollution from motor vehicle engines  
11 is a grave threat to our health and whether we will be  
12 able to live in a climate that sustains human life as  
13 we know it.

14 Stringent greenhouse gas emissions standards play  
15 an essential role in staving off these existential  
16 threats. These standards will have immediate positive  
17 impacts. By reducing and eliminating pollution from  
18 vehicles and the production, delivery, and burning of  
19 the fuel to power them, the air becomes cleaner for  
20 those that live, play, and work near roadways and  
21 refineries, the same people who tend to bear a vastly  
22 disproportionate burden of pollution and who tend to be



1 people of color and low-income.

2 The industry remains ready to meet the most  
3 stringent proposed standards. Automobile manufacturers  
4 and suppliers have developed the necessary technology  
5 and at a lower cost than predicted.

6 Extensive analysis over the past decade by our two  
7 agencies has consistently found that technologies on  
8 the road today and under development will meet the  
9 requirements.

10 Indeed, many automobile manufacturers have  
11 publicly committed to move rapidly towards making  
12 entirely zero emission vehicles. So these standards  
13 reflect the direction of the industry.

14 We also, of course, are pleased that the  
15 California Framework Agreement helped reinforce the  
16 industry's progress and therefore to give the U.S. EPA  
17 a particularly sound foundation on which to rebuild the  
18 federal proposal.

19 Framework automobile companies and others are well  
20 suited to make the progress proposed. Moreover, for  
21 those manufacturers that may need time to incorporate  
22 the necessary technologies into their vehicles, the

1 proposed standards provide the flexibility needed.

2 As U.S. EPA recognized, the benefits of these  
3 standards far outweigh their costs. They directly pay  
4 back their initial costs to drivers which is especially  
5 important for the majority of people that buy and drive  
6 used vehicles, and the proposal provides climate and  
7 public health benefits that we all share.

8 At the California Air Resources Board, we look  
9 forward to continuing to work with our partners at the  
10 U.S. EPA as we move towards zero emission standards for  
11 all passenger cars and light trucks by 2035.

12 The technology developed to meet these standards  
13 will lead to improvements in future years and spread to  
14 other sectors, reducing emissions from other kinds of  
15 vehicles and off-road equipment, and it will meet the  
16 growing public demand for clean transportation and  
17 sustainable practices.

18 We appreciate U.S. EPA's consideration of our  
19 previous comments, legal filings, and petitions for  
20 reconsideration demonstrating that the federal  
21 standards adopted in 2012, which avoided millions of  
22 tons of unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions, are

1 appropriate and feasible.

2 U.S. EPA should quickly act on this proposal and  
3 adopt the most stringent alternative while working to  
4 recognize progress that leading companies have made.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

6 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

7 The next speaker will be a speaker from Block 1.  
8 Evan Fehsenfeld, you may now unmute and state your name  
9 and affiliation for the record.

10 MR. FEHSENFELD: My name is Evan Fehsenfeld, and  
11 thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

12 I am a Senior Research Associate at the Program  
13 for Public Consultation which is part of the University  
14 of Maryland's School of Public Policy.

15 Today I'm going to present data from our surveys  
16 as well as from another respected polling organization  
17 on the public's views of air pollution and fuel  
18 efficiency standards.

19 We conduct surveys of the American public on  
20 federal policy proposals. Our surveys differ from  
21 standard polls in that we provide respondents with a  
22 briefing on the topic, details of the proposals, and

1 arguments for and against each proposal. This content  
2 is reviewed by advocates and opponents to ensure it is  
3 accurate and balanced. We use national probability-  
4 based samples by Nielsen Scarborough with at least  
5 2,400 registered voters yielding a margin of error of  
6 about two percent, plus or minus.

7 Overall, we find that large majority support the  
8 government taking action to reduce air pollution. In a  
9 September 2020 survey, 78 percent of voters assigned a  
10 very or somewhat high priority to the government  
11 working to reduce air pollution that causes negative  
12 health effects. This included 54 percent of  
13 Republicans, eight in 10 Independents, and 98 percent  
14 of Democrats.

15 A survey in 2016 on the clean power plants  
16 proposal from the Obama Administration was a proposal  
17 to require all cars and trucks by 2025 to emit half the  
18 CO2 emissions of the 2010 model elicited support from  
19 73 percent of voters, including 86 percent of  
20 Democrats, 71 percent of Independents, and 57 percent  
21 of Republicans. This also had bipartisan support in  
22 the states we oversampled, including Texas, Florida,

1 and Oklahoma, and Ohio.

2 They were informed that this proposal would  
3 increase the cost of vehicles but save consumers more  
4 on gas in the long run. Similarly, increasing fuel  
5 efficiency standards for heavy-duty trucks, vans,  
6 tractors, and similar vehicles was supported by 71  
7 percent, including 84 percent of Democrats, 68 percent  
8 of Independents, and 56 percent of Republicans, though  
9 they were told the increase would increase the cost of  
10 the vehicle, once again saving money on gas in the long  
11 run.

12 These were also supported in Texas, despite its  
13 dependence on oil, as well as in Ohio and Florida.

14 After the Trump Administration's replacement of  
15 the Clean Power Plan with the Affordable Clean Energy  
16 rule, which froze the fuel efficiency standards, a  
17 survey by Yale University and George Mason University  
18 asked respondents whether they would support the  
19 government setting stronger fuel efficiency standards  
20 for cars, trucks and SUVs, a large majority of 78  
21 percent of voters were in support, including 91 percent  
22 of Democrats, 76 percent of Independents, and 62

1 percent of Republicans.

2 In conclusion, increasing fuel efficiency  
3 standards as a way to reduce air pollution is  
4 consistently supported by a large majority of the  
5 public, including majorities of Republicans, even after  
6 informed that it would raise the cost of vehicles.

7 At the Program for Public Consultation, we do not  
8 take a position on policy issues but believe that in a  
9 democracy it is important for government agencies to  
10 consult citizens on key public issues that the  
11 government faces.

12 We encourage you to take the views of all of the  
13 public into account when deciding whether to change  
14 federal fuel efficiency standards.

15 Thank you for your time and appreciate the  
16 opportunity to speak.

17 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

18 The next speaker will be Julie Kimmel. You may  
19 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
20 record.

21 MS. KIMMEL: Hello. Can you hear me?

22 MS. THOMPSON: Yes, we can.

1 MS. KIMMEL: Okay. My name is Julie Kimmel. I'm  
2 a Project Manager for Moms Clean Air Force and a parent  
3 of a sensitive and energetic six-year-old daughter.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

5 I live with my daughter and husband in Reston,  
6 Virginia, and I grew up here in Northern Virginia. For  
7 as long as I can remember we've had issues with traffic  
8 congestion and cars and trucks are certainly our  
9 largest source of air pollution.

10 In fact, the transportation sector is responsible  
11 for 48 percent of carbon pollution in Virginia. We  
12 clearly cannot address the climate crisis without  
13 moving decisively to zero pollution vehicles.

14 In the last year the Virginia General Assembly  
15 passed some important legislation for reducing tailpipe  
16 pollution in the Commonwealth, establishing an advanced  
17 clean cars program and electric vehicle rebate program  
18 and a grant fund for electric school buses and heavy-  
19 duty vehicles, but Virginia can't do this work to cut  
20 climate pollution alone and neither can any other  
21 state.

22 I support this Administration's proposal to

1 strengthen federal greenhouse gas emissions standards  
2 for passenger cars and light trucks. This proposal is  
3 a step in the right direction for the health of our  
4 children and our climate.

5 Climate change is already affecting my community  
6 in Reston. Over the last decade we've had several  
7 severe wind storms, a phenomenon I don't recall from my  
8 childhood here. We've also seen multiple so-called  
9 100-year rain storms, and the annual number of days  
10 when temperatures soar past 90 degrees is growing.

11 I mentioned that my daughter is six. She just  
12 started first grade. The absolute biggest joy in her  
13 whole life is meeting her friends after school outside  
14 at our neighborhood playground. They play make-believe  
15 and build shelters for bugs. They jump rope and throw  
16 Frisbees. Playing outdoors is so important for young  
17 children. They learn how to be cooperative,  
18 compassionate humans on the playground.

19 When the temperatures climb past 95 degrees, I  
20 have to ask my daughter to stay inside. She plays  
21 hard, overheats easily, and I do not want to risk a  
22 trip to the emergency room for heat-related illness.



1           It's not just me and my kid and my neighbors.  
2           Families across the country are losing so many valuable  
3           play and school days to extreme storms, extreme heat,  
4           and wildfires, thanks to climate change, and this on  
5           top of the education crisis we're facing because of  
6           COVID.

7           As a parent worried about the impacts of climate  
8           change on our children's education, health, and future,  
9           I want EPA to finalize the strongest possible national  
10          greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars  
11          and light trucks. To stall the climate catastrophe  
12          threatening our kids, we must get ourselves on the path  
13          to 100 percent zero emissions new vehicle sales by 2035  
14          and that means the near-term standards for climate  
15          pollution that we're talking about today not only  
16          should be as strong as possible but also should avoid  
17          loopholes and put automakers on track to hit that 100  
18          percent zero emissions by 2035 target.

19          Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20          MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

21          The next speaker on our list is Yolanda Whyte, who  
22          we do not currently see listed in the attendee list.

1     However, if you have joined using a different name, we  
2     would invite you to raise your hand at this time.  If  
3     you have called in, you may raise your hand by dialing  
4     Star 9 on your phone.

5             (No response.)

6             MS. THOMPSON:  All right.  We will move on to the  
7     next speaker on our list.

8             Elizabeth Hauptman.  We also do not see you listed  
9     on the attendee list.  However, if you have joined  
10    using a different name or your telephone, we would  
11    invite you to raise your hand at this time.

12            (No response.)

13            MS. THOMPSON:  Okay.  The next speaker on our list  
14    is Laurie Anderson.

15            Laurie, you may now unmute and state your name and  
16    affiliation for the record.

17            MS. ANDERSON:  Hi.  My name is Laurie Anderson,  
18    and I'm a Field Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force in  
19    Colorado.  I grew up in Colorado and I thank you for  
20    this opportunity to testify today.

21            I'm a mom of five kids and a mechanical engineer  
22    by degree, but I turned my focus to protecting public

1 health and safety after becoming a mom. I also serve  
2 as a council member for the City and County of  
3 Broomfield here in Colorado, speaking on my own behalf.

4 My community is located along Colorado's Front  
5 Range where we are known for our majestic mountains and  
6 sunshine. However, not so well known is our  
7 problematic air inversions where cool night time air  
8 traps high levels of pollution up against the Rocky  
9 Mountains which impacts our air quality and Front Range  
10 communities.

11 The Denver Metro North Front Range is currently  
12 listed serious non-attainment for ground level ozone  
13 and we just passed the EPA July deadline to be  
14 downgraded to severe non-attainment as we contend with  
15 pollution from the oil and gas sector in the DJ Basin  
16 combined with vehicle pollution.

17 Climate change and air pollution is a reality we  
18 must contend with and we must address pollution from  
19 all sectors. Therefore, I support this  
20 Administration's proposal to reduce greenhouse gas  
21 emissions from cars and light trucks.

22 The EPA must set the strongest possible federal

1 clean car standards through 2026, avoiding loopholes,  
2 and putting automakers on track to meet ambitious  
3 pollution reduction goals.

4 A few years ago recognizing the benefit of leading  
5 by example, I switched to an EV in an effort to reduce  
6 my own pollution. I purchased my Nissan Leaf  
7 understanding that this would be a change but I never  
8 regretted that decision. Our communities are ready to  
9 embrace the change to EVs and cleaner vehicles.

10 The transportation sector is the largest sector of  
11 carbon pollution in the U.S. Cleaning up vehicle  
12 pollution is one of the most important things we can do  
13 to fight climate change.

14 Additionally, by reducing tailpipe pollution which  
15 includes NOX, a precursor to ozone, we thereby help  
16 reduce ground level ozone pollution and our hope of  
17 getting out of ozone non-attainment so we can breathe  
18 easier along Colorado's Front Range.

19 I am also concerned about the impacts of climate  
20 change. Last year Colorado experienced the three worst  
21 wildfires in our state's history which impacted air  
22 quality across the state and Colorado remains in severe

1 drought on the Western Slope and that is where our  
2 water supply comes from.

3 We are also facing abnormal weather patterns, such  
4 as two tornadoes over the past couple months have  
5 touched down in this area, and this is an area where we  
6 rarely even have a tornado watch.

7 Additionally, Colorado relies on our winter  
8 snowpack for our water supply and it is down  
9 substantially from years prior. These impacts are  
10 serious and we must reduce our pollution now.

11 In order to set us on the path to 100 percent zero  
12 emissions new vehicle sales by 2035, the near-term  
13 standards for climate pollution must be as strong as  
14 possible. Therefore, please finalize the strongest  
15 possible national greenhouse gas emissions standards  
16 for passenger cars and light trucks for Model Year  
17 2026.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

20 As a quick reminder, if you are speaking today,  
21 you will receive a notification on your screen that you  
22 are being promoted to the role of panelist shortly

1 prior to your speaking time. You must accept that  
2 invitation to be able to unmute when you are called to  
3 testify. This will also allow you to turn on your  
4 camera which we encourage you to do.

5 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
6 their phones when called to testify.

7 If you are having technical difficulties, please  
8 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
9 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
10 would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please send  
11 an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
12 [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

13 Our next speaker will be Celera Hughes. You may  
14 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
15 record.

16 MS. HUGHES: My name is Celera Hughes, and I am  
17 with Moms Clean Air Force, New Mexico Chapter.

18 My name is Celera Hughes, and I am a Moms Clean  
19 Air Force organizer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thank  
20 you so much for the time to speak today.

21 New Mexico is known for its beautiful skies and  
22 outdoor spaces, but Albuquerque continues to receive

1 failing ozone grades from the American Lung  
2 Association's State of the Air Report in large part  
3 because of vehicle pollution.

4 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
5 carbon pollution in the U.S. Cleaning up vehicle  
6 pollution is one of the most important things we can do  
7 to fight climate change.

8 That is why I was glad to hear that the EPA is  
9 proposing to strengthen federal greenhouse gas emission  
10 standards for passenger cars and light trucks which  
11 accounts for 17 percent of U.S. climate pollution.

12 Climate change is impacting New Mexico and the  
13 Southwest with drought and longer more intense wildfire  
14 seasons as well as increased heat waves that threaten  
15 the health of New Mexico's families.

16 We've seen rising heat and climate impacts,  
17 including wildfires, that are causing air pollution  
18 from places over 400 miles away. This summer the  
19 wildfires burning in Arizona put Albuquerque as public  
20 health alert of smoke and particulates traveled  
21 hundreds of miles.

22 On the first day of summer camp, my eight-year-old

1 daughter suffered from heat stroke as we saw the  
2 beginning of a heat wave hitting the Southwest. On the  
3 third day, I had to explain that she could not play  
4 outside because the air was dirty from smoke and  
5 particulate matter caused by wildfires one state over.

6 Over the past few weeks, we've had numerous days  
7 where air quality officials have told us the air  
8 outside is unhealthy to breathe due to smoke and ozone  
9 and our skies are so thick with particulate matter we  
10 cannot see the Sandia Mountains.

11 Our children now have to spend large portions of  
12 the summer inside because air is literally too  
13 dangerous to breathe outdoors. We have to make a  
14 change now before this becomes the new normal.

15 We cannot address the climate crisis without  
16 moving decisively to zero pollution vehicles and this  
17 proposal is a step in the right direction.

18 The pollution from cars not only causes climate  
19 change but it degrades air quality and threatens our  
20 health. The EPA must set the strongest possible  
21 federal clean car standards through 2026, avoiding  
22 loopholes, and putting automakers on track to meet



1 ambitious pollution reduction goals.

2 Thank you again for your time today.

3 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

4 The next speaker on our list is Renee Chacon. It

5 appears that Renee is not listed on our attendee list

6 at this time. However, if you have joined using a

7 different name, please raise your hand at this time.

8 If you have joined using your phone, you may raise your

9 hand by dialing Star 9.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. THOMPSON: We will move on to the next speaker

12 on our list.

13 The next speaker will be Kevin Stewart. Please

14 state your name and affiliation for the record.

15 MR. STEWART: Good morning. I thank the hearing

16 panel for your work today.

17 I am Kevin Stewart, and I serve as Director of

18 Environmental Health, Advocacy, and Public Policy for

19 the American Lung Association.

20 Today, I am speaking on behalf of the American

21 Lung Association in the Mid-Atlantic, covering

22 Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New

1 Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, and  
2 I'm representing not only the millions of people there  
3 who suffer from chronic lung disease but also the tens  
4 of millions of others who desire to breathe clean air  
5 and so protect their good health.

6 According to the American Lung Association's most  
7 recent State of the Air Report in just this service  
8 area, not a mere handful but 20 counties, home to 13  
9 million people, accounting for one-third of that  
10 region's population, earned failing grades for ozone  
11 smog, and a clear majority of these counties average at  
12 least five days a year when ozone levels were high  
13 enough to pose clear risks for people in sensitive  
14 groups, children and seniors as well as people with  
15 chronic lung and heart disease, risks severe enough to  
16 send people to emergency rooms and hospitals.

17 Despite many years of improvement in emissions and  
18 efficiency standards for vehicles and fuels, we in the  
19 Mid-Atlantic still face a serious problem.

20 Transportation-related air pollution, including  
21 significant contributions from light-duty vehicles,  
22 continues to be a major source of both greenhouse gases

1 and ambient air pollution.

2 According to the most recent emission inventories,  
3 highway vehicles alone account for about 17 percent of  
4 the Mid-Atlantic's contributions to volatile organic  
5 compounds and for fully 39 percent, the largest share  
6 for any emissions tier, for nitrogen oxides, the  
7 primary driving precursor of ozone formation in the  
8 Mid-Atlantic.

9 The need for the strongest possible clean car  
10 standards in the short term and on track for the clean  
11 electric vehicle market in the longer term implemented  
12 as soon as possible could not be clearer and lest there  
13 be any wonder about the need for these improvements, I  
14 can cite no more convenient example than the fact that  
15 today has been declared an air quality action day for  
16 ozone smog for much of the Mid-Atlantic, for Baltimore,  
17 Washington, and Northern Virginia, and the South, to  
18 Delaware and Philadelphia and the East, to Pittsburgh  
19 and the West, and quoting from the official forecast,  
20 "Ozone formation during the late morning, afternoon  
21 will be robust and eight-hour maximum concentrations  
22 are expected to reach into the Code Orange range," and

1 the extended forecast continues, "The heat is expected  
2 to continue Thursday with sunshine for the most part  
3 and again Code Orange ozone concentrations are  
4 possible," and climate change is making these scenarios  
5 all the more likely. The need is clear.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

8 The next speaker will be Meredith Haines. You may  
9 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
10 for the record.

11 MS. HAINES: Thank you for the opportunity to  
12 testify, especially remotely.

13 My name is Meredith Haines, and I'm here as a  
14 private citizen. I'm calling in from Vienna, Virginia,  
15 and in Virginia, we recognize that addressing  
16 transportation's outsized contribution to greenhouse  
17 gas emissions is critical to climate policy.

18 And in February, the state legislature passed  
19 clean car standards, joining other forward-looking  
20 states, such as our neighbor Maryland, and we need the  
21 action of this Administration to lead all states to  
22 swift and effective change, and I urge the EPA to adopt

1 at a minimum the second alternative.

2 I'm a chemical oceanographer by training. I have  
3 learned to analyze processes on scales far greater than  
4 the individual human experience and the fact that the  
5 largest ecosystem on the planet is showing  
6 unprecedented breakdown is a realization that I find  
7 difficult to comprehend.

8 The vast capacity of the ocean has buffered out  
9 pollution's impact enormously, directly absorbing  
10 greenhouse effects and excess heat and tempering  
11 atmospheric warming and yet we have reached ecosystem  
12 limits largely within my lifetime.

13 Now ocean life suffers stresses of marine heat  
14 waves on top of generally warmer and more acidic waters  
15 with less oxygen.

16 However, it seems until the impacts show up on our  
17 coasts affecting real estate and impacting our summer  
18 beach trips, then it's a problem happening somewhere  
19 else. So I don't need to remind the panel that there  
20 is no Plan B at least for today. The better news is  
21 there is at a minimum an Alternative 2.

22 To keep this in very human scale terms, driveway

1 issues, if you will, with Alternative 2 consumers will  
2 have more dollars in their pockets, in their budgets,  
3 and Consumer Reports tells me it would be \$2,100 per  
4 vehicle.

5 Our communities will have cleaner air benefits  
6 sooner and will be more choices in electric vehicles,  
7 and I want consumers to get a strong signal that zero  
8 emission vehicles are the future and that is the future  
9 we want with lower running costs, cleaner air to  
10 breathe, and wider ecosystem benefits.

11 And to briefly touch on where regulation meets  
12 policy, I note that the regulatory analysis does not  
13 appear to consider the impact of the carbon tax and  
14 given that a carbon price is considered by economists  
15 and scientists and I advocate for it, the best policy  
16 for rapid emissions reductions and is broadly  
17 implemented worldwide should be part of the  
18 conversation and consumers will use their climate  
19 action incentive payments or carbon cash back and the  
20 known schedule of carbon price increases and want to  
21 further benefit economically by making more fuel-  
22 efficient/less-carbon-intensive choices.

1           Just in conclusion, I urge you to reinstate the  
2   Obama/Biden standards with your Alternative 2 and set  
3   even stronger ones through 2030 and loopholes undermine  
4   the possibility of meeting our emissions reduction  
5   target and delay undermines the messages of urgency  
6   that should accompany all action.

7           Thank you for hearing my testimony.

8           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

9           The next speaker will be Jonathan Shevelew. You  
10   may now unmute and please state your name and  
11   affiliation for the record.

12          MR. SHEVELEW: Hi. My name is Jonathan Shevelew.  
13   I'm the CEO of the Tesla Owners Club of Pennsylvania,  
14   but I'm here today as a private citizen.

15          Thank you for giving me the opportunity to  
16   comment.

17          I'm not here to spout statistics to prove that  
18   we're faced with a climate crisis. I believe that any  
19   reasonable individual at this point should recognize  
20   that this is the case.

21          I'm also not here for myself. The worst effects  
22   of this crisis will probably not be felt during my

1 lifetime. I'm here because when I look at my children  
2 and my five-year-old grandson, I am terrified for the  
3 future that they will inherit because of the selfish  
4 indifference that my generation has demonstrated.

5 We need to recognize that we are faced with a  
6 climate crisis and therefore need to act as if this is  
7 a crisis and not a minor inconvenience that we can  
8 address gradually over a period of time.

9 These initiatives should have been implemented 20  
10 years ago. To now decide to accept the 20-year  
11 transition like GM is proposing is foolhardy and will  
12 have devastating results, especially when we already  
13 have manufacturers that have demonstrated that  
14 achieving a 100 percent reduction in GHG is possible  
15 today.

16 To encourage manufacturers to continue to invest  
17 funds and resources into reducing the emissions from  
18 fossil fuel-based engines is an absurd approach with  
19 diminishing returns, especially when we've already  
20 accepted the fact that these types of engines will  
21 disappear.

22 When a country like Norway, who is also a major



1 oil producer, can make this full transition by 2025,  
2 why would we think that we can't do that here?

3 Necessity is the mother of invention. I spent  
4 many years in software design and development and we  
5 had a saying that any program will expand to fit all  
6 available space.

7 If you accept 20-year targets that will eliminate  
8 any sense of urgency, then it will take the full 20  
9 years for this transition to happen.

10 The EPA is noting already the need for a longer-  
11 term rule. So why once again are you going to kick  
12 that can down the road? Your current proposals don't  
13 even meet the goals of the Obama Administration. This  
14 is not earth-shattering news to vehicle manufacturers.  
15 They have known that this was coming for years but had  
16 no incentive to move towards EVs.

17 It's imperative that we push them harder by making  
18 the financial penalties so severe that not investing in  
19 the transition would be a disastrous business decision  
20 for them. The costs associated with transitioning  
21 their products to ZEVs needs to be less than the  
22 penalty for not doing it.

1           There is also a political reality to consider.

2           While currently the government is recognizing the  
3           climate crisis we are faced with, those positions can  
4           change with future administrations. In order to assure  
5           that we don't waver from this path, the EPA needs to  
6           put rules in place that are aggressive and which need  
7           to be acted on immediately.

8           By setting 2025 as the goal to eliminate GHG  
9           emissions from light-duty vehicles, it assures there  
10          will be no future diversions based on a changing  
11          political landscape.

12          Faced with severe penalties for noncompliance  
13          beginning in 2026, I have no doubt that the OEMs will  
14          find a way to make this happen.

15          We will be held accountable and we'll be judged  
16          for our actions in this crisis by subsequent  
17          generations. What we do today will affect the quality  
18          of life for this planet for many years and it's time  
19          for us to be the adults in the room.

20          Thank you for allowing me to comment.

21          MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

22          The next speaker will be Sandra Remilien. Sandra,

1 you may now unmute and please state your name and  
2 affiliation for the record.

3 MS. REMILION: (Audio glitch) and eliminate  
4 unnecessary loopholes for automakers. (Audio glitch.)

5 Transportation is the biggest source of greenhouse  
6 gas emissions and makes up 20 percent of emissions.

7 (Audio glitch) makes up about 4.6 metric tons of carbon  
8 monoxide. (Audio glitch) creates about 8,887 rems of  
9 CO2.

10 When I was in high school, I had mild asthma.  
11 Stronger clean car standards would ensure I have clean  
12 air and clean air helps me breathe easier. I like the  
13 smell of clean air. I have breathed clean air only to  
14 have the air become polluted again (unintelligible.) I  
15 have smelled the exhaust from car tailpipes and  
16 gasoline and carbon monoxide, methane, nitrous oxide,  
17 and things that come from car tailpipes.

18 Particulate matter worsens asthma and causes  
19 premature death. Tailpipes cause air pollution.  
20 Electric cars do not emit tailpipe emissions or the  
21 gases that come from gasoline-powered cars. Fuel-  
22 efficient cars lower air pollution and emissions from

1 cars. Fuel-efficient cars emit less carbon dioxide.

2 A Consumer Reports survey found that nine in 10  
3 adults in the U.S. (audio glitch) reduces greenhouse  
4 gas emissions.

5 Once again, I urge the EPA to set the strongest  
6 possible standards because they help with air pollution  
7 and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Alternative 2  
8 saves \$2,100 per vehicle. Please make our cars and  
9 light-duty trucks clean and efficient. Please make the  
10 clean car standards through 2030 stronger and for  
11 automakers to avoid these standards.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

13 MS. CHARMLEY: Ms. Remilien, this is Bill Charmley  
14 with the EPA. I just want to let you know thank you  
15 for your testimony and we're able to hear almost  
16 everything you said, except for about maybe like the  
17 first 20 or 30 seconds. The connection was poor. But  
18 I did want to let you know we do have your written  
19 testimony. So if you hear later that maybe the  
20 recording wasn't great, we did hear almost everything  
21 you had to say and we'll make sure that we review your  
22 written testimony.

1 MS. REMILION: Thank you.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 The next speaker will be Melanie Buzzelli. You  
4 may now unmute and please state your name and  
5 affiliation for the record.

6 MS. BUZZELLI: Thank you.

7 Good morning. My name is Melanie Buzzelli,  
8 M-E-L-A-N-I-E, Buzzelli, B-U-Z-Z-E-L-L-I. I do work at  
9 the Lung Association, but I'm here today to speak as a  
10 private citizen.

11 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak  
12 with you today about this important topic as well as  
13 thank President Biden and his Administration for  
14 recognizing and seeking to address climate pollution  
15 from transportation.

16 I'm happy to see this proposal and the broader  
17 efforts on the part of the Administration regarding  
18 clean cars, but I'm here to say that it is not enough.  
19 I'm seeking a Master's in Public Health at George  
20 Washington University and currently I'm enrolled in a  
21 class pertaining to Environmental and Occupational  
22 Health.

1           Recently, the professor asked us to look at the  
2           concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere when  
3           we entered the program and compare it to the  
4           concentration now. In June of 2019 the concentration  
5           level was approximately 414.1 parts per million, and in  
6           June of 2021 the concentration level was approximately  
7           418.94 parts per million.

8           The professor then asked us to compare these  
9           numbers to the point of no return, generally recognized  
10          as 450 parts per million, and reflect on how we felt.  
11          I had a hard time attempting to describe my myriad of  
12          emotions at the time and I don't think I've become any  
13          more articulate since then, but I think the word I  
14          ultimately ended up landing on to suffice for now which  
15          was terrified.

16          I know these numbers aren't a surprise for you and  
17          they weren't necessarily a surprise to me either, but I  
18          think it is nonetheless important to constantly remind  
19          ourselves of what we face.

20          Working in policy myself, I know how easy it is  
21          for politics and bureaucracy to chip away at big  
22          change, but on the issue of climate change we simply

1 cannot afford for that to happen.

2 We need to be doing as much as we can at every  
3 opportunity we have and in that vein, while this  
4 proposal is a step in the right direction, much more is  
5 needed.

6 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
7 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.  
8 Gasoline and diesel-powered cars, SUVs, trucks, buses,  
9 vans, and more pollute the air we breathe and drive  
10 climate change.

11 I ask that EPA finalize this rule as quickly as  
12 possible so that it can take effect as quickly as  
13 possible and in doing so, I ask that EPA maximize the  
14 emissions reductions and health benefits of this rule.

15 EPA must also hold automakers accountable in order  
16 to ensure that the standards actually result in real-  
17 world reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and then,  
18 perhaps more importantly, I ask that EPA set up  
19 stronger standards to follow. Stronger standards  
20 covering cars, SUVs, and light trucks through at least  
21 2030 and stronger standards for heavy-duty vehicles are  
22 necessary to drive the transition to zero emission

1 vehicles that the nation and the world desperately  
2 need.

3 Climate change is terrifying. It's truly an  
4 existential crisis and I hope it's one that we're  
5 willing to meet.

6 Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with  
7 you today and for your work on this vital issue.

8 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

9 As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you will  
10 receive a notification on your screen that you're being  
11 promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to your  
12 speaking time. You must accept that invitation to be  
13 able to unmute when you are calling to testify. This  
14 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
15 encourage you to do.

16 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
17 their phones when called to testify.

18 If you are having technical difficulties, please  
19 send an e-mail to [pubic\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:pubic_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
20 919-294-7712. Additionally, if you are not registered  
21 to speak but would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th,  
22 please send an e-mail with your name and phone number



1 to public\_hearing@abtassoc.com or call 919-294-7712.

2 The next speaker on our list is Kent Minault.

3 Kent, you are not currently on the list of attendees.

4 However, if you have joined using a different name, we

5 would invite you to raise your hand at this time. If

6 you have joined using your phone, you can raise your

7 hand by dialing Star 9.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will move on to the next  
10 speaker on our list.

11 The next speaker will be Jim Steitz. You may now  
12 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
13 the record.

14 MR. STEITZ: Hello. My name is Jim Steitz, no  
15 real affiliation to give, and I'll keep my comments  
16 brief.

17 I believe that in setting new auto efficiency  
18 standards a controlling central organizing concern of  
19 EPA must be mitigating the existential threats of  
20 climate change.

21 The need of human civilization and every part  
22 thereof, including EPA, to reduce our carbon emissions

1 really must override all economic objections from  
2 automakers, the oil industry, dealerships, any other  
3 parties that may have financial objections to strong  
4 standards but whose lives are not literally in jeopardy  
5 as are those of our children most decidedly.

6 The selection of Alternative 2 and the  
7 reinstatement of standards sets by the Obama  
8 Administration should be considered a perfunctory  
9 minimum policy in light of recent data o climate  
10 change.

11 In fact, EPA, I believe, should really look to the  
12 analysis of the International Energy Agency that  
13 dropped in May which outlines what they believe, and  
14 they have a lot of expertise in this area, would be the  
15 most economically- and technically-plausible way to  
16 keep climate change below catastrophic levels and they  
17 found that internal combustion vehicle sales would have  
18 to essentially end by 2035 and that's not many vehicle  
19 generations away and any EPA policy that does not force  
20 automakers on to that path is really not acknowledging  
21 reality.

22 Moreover, there really must be no opportunity for

1 evading the mileage standards by shifting around sales  
2 volume among categories. For three decades now, these  
3 standards have been undermined by this farce of  
4 classifying SUVs as light trucks and manufacturers then  
5 promote these quasi-military vehicles to satisfy either  
6 misplaced masculine vanity or illusions of personal  
7 safety, neither of which are related to the categories  
8 of the original purpose of the actual work vehicles for  
9 construction or farming or what have you.

10 Manufacturers have tremendous ability to drive  
11 purchaser preferences. Their complaints about their  
12 abilities in selling fuel-efficient vehicles are really  
13 just self-fulfilling prophecies and they must be  
14 disregarded.

15 If the auto manufacturers have to accept lower  
16 profit margins to derive the sales of fuel-efficient  
17 and electric vehicles, that's really a trivial concern  
18 in the big scheme of things hanging over the EPA right  
19 now, and these standards have to commence immediately  
20 with mileage improvements demanded in the very next  
21 vehicle year. They cannot be back-loaded to let  
22 manufacturers stall for time and then lobby to weaken

1 the standards later.

2 The past three decades of very frustrating  
3 feckless haggling with the industry, all kinds of  
4 industries really, over carbon emissions demonstrates  
5 if you set targets for more than a few years out, then  
6 those standards are consistently ignored either as  
7 someone else's problem or as a nuisance for the  
8 government relations office to fix, not the CEO's  
9 problem. So we cannot make that mistake either again.

10 This is our last chance and so I really urge EPA  
11 to get it right and to act with more boldness than any  
12 political history would suggest as precedence and  
13 that's all.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

16 The next speaker on our list is Patricia Keefe.  
17 You may now unmute and state your name and affiliation  
18 for the record.

19 MS. KEEFE: Okay. Can you hear me?

20 MS. THOMPSON: We can hear you.

21 MS. KEEFE: Okay. Clean cars in our state. So I  
22 worked with our state senator and I found out that the

1 EPA of Minnesota was developing rules about clean cars.  
2 So we do have that process already entered into the  
3 state register in Minnesota. So the process is going  
4 forward and I'm sure the EPA can get a copy of -- can  
5 you still hear me -- a copy of the rules that were  
6 developed by the EPA and they were entered into the  
7 Minnesota Register recently and they used some of the  
8 information from California's experience on clean cars.

9 So we now are in -- it's now being in the public  
10 domain and the rules will be applied in the future to  
11 new cars and light trucks in Minnesota. So if EPA here  
12 wants to get those, they can get them from the EPA of  
13 Minnesota and so can anybody else.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

16 The next speaker will be Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee.  
17 You may now unmute and please state your name and  
18 affiliation for the record.

19 MS. LEE: Are you able to hear me?

20 MS. THOMPSON: Yes, we can hear you.

21 MS. LEE: Thank you.

22 Hello. My name is Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee. I

1 serve as the Executive for Economic and Environmental  
2 Justice at United Methodist Women and climate justice  
3 is one of our issue priorities. We are a faith-based  
4 women's organization with members in every state of the  
5 U.S.

6 The most recent IPCC report notes that human-  
7 caused climate change is fueling cataclysmic changes to  
8 our planet and warns that limiting global warming will  
9 be beyond reach in the next two decades without  
10 immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in  
11 greenhouse gas emissions.

12 The U.S. has a moral responsibility to drastically  
13 reduce our own emissions. We must do our fair share.  
14 While we are only four percent of the world's  
15 population, the U.S. has contributed more than 25  
16 percent of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions and is  
17 the biggest contributor.

18 Women, children, and youth are already being  
19 disproportionately affected. The UN reports that 80  
20 percent of people being displaced by climate change are  
21 women and when natural disasters hit, women and  
22 children have been 14 times more likely than men to

1 die, more vulnerable to gender-based violence, and  
2 afterwards there has been as much as 20 to 30 percent  
3 increase in trafficking.

4 Because transportation is the largest climate-  
5 polluting sector in the U.S., by implementing the  
6 strongest possible fuel economy standards, EPA can  
7 ensure that automakers and bus and technology to make  
8 more efficient vehicles rapidly shift to electric  
9 vehicles significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
10 and reduce co-pollutants that will protect the planet  
11 and our health.

12 I speak about this concern also as a mother of a  
13 seven-year-old and as an Asian American having grown up  
14 and lived in environmental justice communities in  
15 Queens, New York.

16 It was unsurprising when I read that the 2019  
17 Union of Concerned Scientists Report found that Asian  
18 American residents are exposed to twice as much PM 2.5  
19 pollution as were white residents in New York. Our  
20 roads are heavily trafficked by cars and buses and our  
21 air is heavily polluted from tailpipe emissions.

22 I am also a caretaker for my 79-year-old father

1 who has COPD and bronchiectasis. My father was  
2 recently rushed to the ICU and intubated for many weeks  
3 unable to breathe on his own. Fortunately, he is now  
4 home recovering but the greatest threat to his lung  
5 function is air pollution.

6 Passing the strongest standards to reduce tailpipe  
7 emissions will not only protect my father's life but  
8 the 103,000 people living with COPD and over 36,600  
9 children living with pediatric asthma and the 1.6  
10 million people of color in Queens County alone.

11 Implementing the strongest fuel economy standards  
12 that exceeds Obama's standards will address the climate  
13 crisis, protect women, protect communities of color,  
14 and protect the health of all our families.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

17 The next speaker will be Renee Chacon. You may  
18 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
19 record.

20 MS. CHACON: It's Renee M. Chacon. I reside on  
21 the homelands of the Ute, the Cheyenne, the Arapaho,  
22 the Lakota, and 48 tribes that still and travel as we



1 document in our nonprofit which is an Indigenous women-  
2 led nonprofit Spirit of the Sun here in the homelands  
3 of what we call Colorado.

4 I ask that you be good ancestors in this space. I  
5 ask that you learn what it really means to look at  
6 protecting clean spaces for future generations.

7 I live in Palmer City, Colorado. We deal with  
8 several different forms of particulate pollution,  
9 mainly the transportation sector, and also other  
10 extractive industries, like Suncor fully-leased  
11 hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, and benzene.

12 We live with issues of respiratory and circulatory  
13 issues far before COVID. In Indigenous spaces, urban  
14 and rural, that does mean a death sentence.

15 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
16 carbon pollution in the U.S. We need to clean up  
17 vehicle pollution. Honestly, it's one of the most  
18 important things we can do for climate change and the  
19 climate impacts that disproportionately impact the  
20 communities.

21 We helped define last year what is  
22 disproportionately-impacted communities starting with

1 Indigenous communities and that means if there has been  
2 any degradation to our quality of life, our health and  
3 safety, and ultimately endangerment when there is no  
4 regulations and true forceful and enforceable  
5 protections for our future generations.

6 We need to strengthen proposals from the EPA and  
7 we need clean car standards now. In all honesty,  
8 President Biden has promised to address climate change  
9 and fight for environmental justice, but that needs to  
10 have radical and revolutionary actions now.

11 EV is a technology that we can help in  
12 disproportionately-impacted communities now. We need  
13 to have some form of reparations from the harm done by  
14 corporations, especially extractive industries, but  
15 ultimately we need to build true transformative  
16 transition for disproportionately-impacted communities  
17 and future generations first. That does have to start  
18 with some support of convertible energy and this  
19 proposal to honestly safeguard standards and forcible  
20 protections.

21 What is the use of having regulations if we do not  
22 have corporations able to be regulated when they cause

1 harm and, most of all, have protections to communities  
2 that we know are already harmed by disproportionate  
3 disparities of respiratory? This is asthma, anemia,  
4 heart disease, and death by COVID for Indigenous  
5 communities which has wreaked havoc in our communities,  
6 urban and rural.

7 We need to address climate change by protecting  
8 our children's future and little lungs. In any way  
9 that you can have clean car standards, I advise you to  
10 do this now for future generations.

11 If you want to know how to be an ally and  
12 accomplice for disproportionately-impacted communities,  
13 please look us up at [spiritofthesun.org](http://spiritofthesun.org). I've been  
14 working in environmental justice my entire life, so has  
15 my entire family, all of my aunties and my community.

16 We are tired of being choked out and flushed out  
17 of Colorado and if we are honestly going to combat  
18 climate change and climate impacts with  
19 disproportionately-impacted communities, we need to see  
20 that the system is not broken but has been working as  
21 designed to target these areas and we need to dismantle  
22 and rebuild by understanding that the first key is to

1 learn from your mistakes and protect the communities  
2 that have been harmed first.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

5 At this time I will call on speakers we were  
6 unable to hear testimony from earlier in this speaker  
7 block.

8 The first speaker on my list is Yolanda Whyte.  
9 Yolanda, I do not currently see you on the attendee  
10 list. However, if you have joined using a different  
11 name, we ask that you raise your hand at this time and  
12 if you have joined using your phone, we would invite  
13 you to raise your hand by dialing Star 9.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. The next name on our list is  
16 Elizabeth Hauptman. If you have joined using a  
17 different name, we would ask you to raise your hand at  
18 this time and if you have joined using your phone, you  
19 may raise your hand by dialing Star 9.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. THOMPSON: At this time I will move on to the  
22 last speaker on my list, Kent Minault. If you have

1 joined using a different name, we would invite you to  
2 raise your hand and if you have joined using your  
3 phone, you may raise your hand by dialing Star 9.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We are now at the end of our  
6 morning session.

7 EPA, are you ready to recess until after the  
8 scheduled lunch break?

9 MR. OLECHIW: We are, and I wanted to take this  
10 opportunity to thank everyone that took the time to  
11 speak this morning. We very much appreciate everyone's  
12 comments and are looking forward to the testimonies  
13 that we will hear in this afternoon's session starting  
14 at 1 o'clock.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

16 We are now adjourning for lunch break and will  
17 resume the virtual hearing at 1 p.m. Eastern Time.

18 (Whereupon, the virtual public hearing was  
19 adjourned for lunch.)

20

21

22

1 AFTERNOON SESSION

2 MS. THOMPSON: Welcome back to the Environmental  
3 Protection Agency's Public Hearing for the Revised 2023  
4 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas  
5 Emissions Standards.

6 My name is Kayla Thompson from Abt Associates,  
7 contractor to the U.S. EPA.

8 We are now ready to continue the Virtual Public  
9 Hearing.

10 I'll turn it over to EPA to get us started.

11 MR. OLECHIW: I'm sorry. I didn't realize that I  
12 was opening up the Afternoon Session. So fell asleep  
13 at the wheel here.

14 I'm not sure I have any opening remarks, other  
15 than to once again thank everyone that spoke in this  
16 morning's session and we're looking forward to hearing  
17 all of the speakers in this afternoon.

18 Thank you, Kayla.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

20 Before we resume the hearing, we'd like to go over  
21 some logistics. As a reminder, all attendees are muted  
22 automatically. If you are speaking today, you will

1 receive a notification on your screen that you are  
2 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
3 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
4 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
5 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
6 encourage you to do.

7 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
8 their phones when called to testify.

9 If you're having technical difficulties, please  
10 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
11 919-294-7712.

12 Additionally, if you are not registered to speak  
13 but you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th,  
14 please send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or  
15 call 919-294-7712.

16 Now we will continue with our public testimony.  
17 The expected speaking order is currently displayed on  
18 the screen. We ask that each person limit their verbal  
19 testimony to three minutes. We encourage you to  
20 provide your full written testimony and any additional  
21 comments of any length to the Docket Number EPA-HQ-OAR-  
22 2021-0208 on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

1 I will be introducing each speaker in turn.

2 Please speaker slowly and clearly so our court reporter  
3 can record these proceedings accurately.

4 The first speaker will be Yolanda Whyte. Yolanda,  
5 you may unmute and please state your name and  
6 affiliation for the record.

7 Speaker Block 3

8 DR. WHYTE: Yes. Hello. Thank you so much for  
9 this opportunity to testify.

10 I'm Dr. Yolanda Whyte. I'm a pediatrician based  
11 out of Atlanta, and I specialize in environmental  
12 health. I'm a member of Moms Clean Air Force and also  
13 the EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory  
14 Committee.

15 I want to thank Moms Clean Air Force for inviting  
16 me to participate in this hearing.

17 I support this EPA Administration and this  
18 proposal to reduce pollution from passenger cars and  
19 light trucks for Model Years 2023 to 2026 with the goal  
20 of reducing our consistently-increasing greenhouse gas  
21 emissions. Urgent actions must be taken now.

22 As you know, Atlanta is reported to have amongst



1 the worst urban sprawl in the nation and we're known  
2 for our traffic congestion. We have so many highways  
3 around and through the city that it's hard to avoid  
4 traffic pollution.

5 Right about now it's hot, humid, and it also has  
6 an odor particular to the more rural areas that I  
7 frequently visit. Many parts of the city are  
8 considered urban heat islands which are  
9 disproportionately affected by our changing climate.

10 We are learning more about heat-related illnesses  
11 in which some, like heat stroke, are fatal, especially  
12 for babies and teen athletes, and some heat-related  
13 illnesses increase the risk of pregnancy complications  
14 and adverse birth outcomes, like prematurity, low birth  
15 weight, and stillbirths, thus worsening health  
16 disparities of maternal mortality and infant mortality.

17 This morning's Air Quality Index for the part of  
18 the city where I live was 108. This is in the orange  
19 range considered unhealthy for sensitive groups.  
20 Unfortunately, there are no public health warnings  
21 informing vulnerable residents, such as babies,  
22 seniors, those with heart or lung disease, of this risk

1 or the need to stay indoors, close the windows, and  
2 take measures to improve indoor air quality.

3 Last December for the first time in world history,  
4 air pollution was listed as a cause of death on a death  
5 certificate. The young girl had severe uncontrollable  
6 asthma due to ozone particulate matter and nitrogen  
7 dioxide air pollutants from living along a busy roadway  
8 in London and London has more protective standards than  
9 we do here in the U.S.

10 It would be great if the EPA worked with the U.S.  
11 Department of Health and Human Services to train  
12 physicians to also understand the health impacts of air  
13 pollution and also educate patients about it and ways  
14 to protect themselves from it.

15 I'm available to work with the EPA and Health and  
16 Human Services on this task.

17 Therefore, since traffic has now become the main  
18 source of air pollution, the strongest clean car  
19 standards are urgently needed, especially since many of  
20 the health impacts mentioned earlier are preventable.

21 Therefore, I urge EPA to set the strongest  
22 standards on the fastest timeline to protect our

1 health, especially for the most vulnerable who cannot  
2 defend themselves or be able to speak today.

3 Thank you so much.

4 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

5 The next speaker will be Devon Watkins. Please  
6 state your name and affiliation for the record.

7 MR. WATKINS: Hello. My name is Devon Watkins  
8 from the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

9 On CO2 EPA claims this rule's greatest benefits  
10 are from PM 2.5, but there are problems with that  
11 analysis. The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Board, a  
12 statutorily-required board of experts, found that EPA  
13 failed to provide adequate evidence of particular  
14 matter causing nervous system effects or cancer as EPA  
15 claimed.

16 Even worse, according to members of CASAC, EPA's  
17 mortality causation determinations to be based almost  
18 exclusively on epidemiological studies which cannot be  
19 used in isolation to determine causation.

20 The Chairman of CASAC identified what he described  
21 as unstated, untested, unverified, and mistaken  
22 assumptions, including the failure to distinguish

1 between true exposure values and estimated exposure  
2 values in analyzing and presenting information, that  
3 EPA is relying upon studies which do not address  
4 exposure measurement errors and should not be used or  
5 relied or cited as evidence.

6 To correct these statistical errors, CASAC  
7 Chairman Cox said that EPA should use errors and  
8 variables analysis to correct for the exposure error.

9 The EPA Administrator at the time said that he had  
10 reviewed the errors that CASAC had identified and  
11 ordered that those problems be fixed in the final  
12 version but EPA did not do so. EPA ignored the  
13 recommendations of CASAC and proceeded without allowing  
14 them to continue to review the analysis as they had  
15 requested.

16 Instead, EPA removed all of the members of CASAC,  
17 every last person, without addressing the problems they  
18 raised and only let back on the panel those that agreed  
19 with EPA.

20 EPA continues in this rulemaking to ignore the  
21 statistical errors identified by former CASAC Chairman  
22 Cox, continues to refuse to use errors and variables

1 analysis to correct for errors in the data that even  
2 EPA has acknowledged exist. This is inexcusable.

3 EPA has a responsibility under the EPA to consider  
4 all important factors for its decision, including  
5 potential problems to its analysis that it has been  
6 made aware of.

7 The Competitive Enterprise Institute sued EPA to  
8 ensure that it be forced to consider the problems that  
9 CASAC identified. That court case is currently being  
10 held in abeyance at EPA's request because EPA said that  
11 they were reconsidering the rule, but this proposed  
12 rule does not reconsider any of the errors Chairman Cox  
13 identified. It doesn't even mention them.

14 EPA cannot continue to ignore the problems  
15 identified by the independent scientific experts that  
16 EPA asked to evaluate its claims. Removing them from  
17 office doesn't eliminate those statistical errors and  
18 EPA may be sued again if it continues to ignore the  
19 errors identified by the independent scientific experts  
20 EPA asked to review their work.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

1           The next speaker will be Sam Kazman. Please state  
2 your name and affiliation for the record.

3           As a reminder, you will need to accept the  
4 invitation to be promoted to panelist.

5           MR. KAZMAN: Okay. Hello. I'm Sam Kazman,  
6 General Counsel of Competitive Enterprise Institute.

7           CEI submits that EPA's proposal fails to  
8 adequately deal with the issue of traffic safety.

9           First, EPA has arbitrarily restricted the range of  
10 alternatives that it is considering. It states that it  
11 isn't considering alternatives less stringent than the  
12 California Framework. Its reason for this is that the  
13 Framework represents a level of stringency that five  
14 manufacturers have already committed to achieving.

15           But the fact that five car makers have committed  
16 to meeting this standard says little about whether that  
17 standard satisfies all the appropriate criteria, which  
18 include health and safety.

19           In the 2020 SAFE Rulemaking, it was clear that the  
20 less stringent alternatives posed by the agencies had  
21 greater traffic safety benefits than the more stringent  
22 alternatives. This relationship continues to hold for

1 the alternatives that EPA is now considering and for  
2 that reason, the agency should not ignore alternatives  
3 that are more lenient than the California Framework.

4 Secondly, EPA has apparently downplayed the safety  
5 risks of mass and sized reductions in vehicles. It  
6 states that car makers can achieve its proposed  
7 standards using only modest levels of mass reduction,  
8 but even if manufacturers can use only modest down-  
9 sizing, this does not mean that they necessarily will.  
10 Some of them may well use more downsizing, in which  
11 case the safety impacts might be greater.

12 Moreover, what EPA calls its "central estimate" of  
13 the mass safety effect, the 0.07 percent increase in  
14 fatalities, seems to be questionably low, especially  
15 since a large component of that estimate rests on some  
16 alleged safety benefit from downsizing.

17 We submit that the mass safety effect is much  
18 stronger. In the words of the Insurance Institute for  
19 Highway Safety, a bigger, heavier vehicle provides  
20 better crash protection than a smaller, lighter one,  
21 assuming no other differences.

22 As for the possibility that larger vehicles

1 significantly endanger the occupants of smaller  
2 vehicles, the Insurance Institute finds that this  
3 threat is not as large as it once was.

4 CAFE's history demonstrates that it has not always  
5 been administered with a candid assessment of its  
6 lethal impact on traffic safety. In 1992, in the case  
7 of CEI v. NHTSA, a D.C. Circuit Panel found that NHTSA  
8 had arbitrarily ignored the likelihood that its  
9 standard kills people. The panel found that NHTSA had  
10 done so through a combination, and I'm quoting from the  
11 court decision here, "of lame claims, bureaucratic  
12 mumbo-jumbo, fudged analysis, and statistical sleight  
13 of hand." We hope that such an episode won't be  
14 repeated again.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

17 The next speaker will be Marlo Lewis. Please  
18 state your name and affiliation for the record.

19 MR. LEWIS: My name's Marlo Lewis. I'm a Senior  
20 Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy at the  
21 Competitive Enterprise Institute.

22 My comments address the EPA's use of the social



1 cost of greenhouse gases to estimate the net benefits  
2 of the agency's proposed rule.

3 The EPA estimates that during Calendar Years 2023  
4 to 2050 the proposal's greenhouse gas emission  
5 reductions will deliver \$91 billion in climate change  
6 benefits. Those benefits are a mirage.

7 Since 2010, the Interagency Working Group or IWG  
8 has cherry-picked assumptions and inputs to produce  
9 wildly-inflated social cost estimates. The IWG  
10 averages the results of three integrated assessment  
11 models, two of which ignore the immense agricultural  
12 benefits of atmospheric carbon dioxide fertilization.  
13 The IWG relies on climate sensitivity estimates derived  
14 from other models that project about three times more  
15 warming in the tropical bulk atmosphere than has been  
16 observed over the past 40 years.

17 The most egregious methodological bias, however,  
18 is the IWG's selection of baseline emission scenarios.  
19 Four of its baseline scenarios assume that coal scales  
20 up rapidly to become the world's leading energy source  
21 after 2050 with consumption continuing to increase well  
22 into the 23rd Century.

1           Those scenarios result in post-22100 cumulative  
2 carbon dioxide emissions far in excess of estimated  
3 fossil fuel reserves as the Electric Power Research  
4 Institute pointed out in its 2014 Technical Review of  
5 the IWG's work.

6           To even approach the massive cumulative emissions  
7 projected in the IWG baselines, University of Colorado  
8 Professor Roger Pilkey, Jr., explains, "The world would  
9 have to make it a policy goal to burn as much coal as  
10 possible over the coming centuries. That seems  
11 unlikely."

12           In effect, the IWG's procedure is to take the  
13 high-end 21st Century forcing trajectory called RCP 8.5  
14 and then extend it out to the Year 2300. As is well  
15 known, RCP 8.3 carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 are  
16 more than twice the level projected by the  
17 International Energy Agency in its baseline emissions  
18 scenarios.

19           RCP 8.5 is no longer a plausible emission pathway  
20 for the 21st Century. There is no evidence the world  
21 will return to coal over the next eight decades, much  
22 less over the next 280 years.

1           The IWG's social cost estimates are a  
2 methodological house of cards. Using those values to  
3 estimate the net benefits of the proposed rule flouts  
4 basic standards of scientific integrity.

5           Thank you.

6           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

7           The next speaker will be Patrick Michaels. You  
8 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
9 the record.

10          MR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

11          I am Patrick J. Michaels, Senior Fellow in Energy  
12 and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute  
13 and also a Senior Fellow at the CO2 Coalition.

14          I will discuss the proposed regulation's effects  
15 on global surface temperature compared to existing  
16 standards and what benefits can be expected to accrue  
17 from the proposed changes.

18          In a word, the answer to both is simple: none.

19          It is a standard procedure for the EPA to assess  
20 temperature consequences of proposed or existing  
21 policies using something called the "Model for the  
22 Assessment of Greenhouse Gas-Induced Climate Change,"

1 which was developed at the National Center for  
2 Atmospheric Research and indeed the acronym for it is  
3 MAGGICC, the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse  
4 Gas-Induced Climate Change.

5 One can use MAGGICC to determine the effects of  
6 the continuation of current vehicle standards versus  
7 what is now proposed which bears some resemblance to  
8 the proposals from the Obama Administration EPA.

9 Using standard MAGGICC assumptions which includes  
10 an equilibrium climate sensitivity of 3.0 degrees C,  
11 MAGGICC calculates the net savings of global warming to  
12 be 3,000ths of a degree Celsius by the year 2100.  
13 Assuming the standard atmosphere, that is roughly the  
14 average temperature between the air surrounding your  
15 head and the air surrounding your mid=section.

16 According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
17 Administration, the inherent error in current  
18 calculations of global average surface temperature is  
19 0.08 degrees Celsius or 800ths of a degree Celsius,  
20 which is 27 times, I said 27 times larger than the  
21 calculated effect of the new standards.

22 Yet the Administration goes on to calculate the

1 social costs of this regulation, coming up with a net  
2 benefit of nearly \$100 billion by 2050. Given that the  
3 MAGGICC-calculated temperature change is a mere  
4 3,000ths of a degree by 2100, the change by 2050 would  
5 be even less than half of that.

6 It simply defies logic to calculate the benefits  
7 of a regulation that will have an impossible-to-detect  
8 effect on surface temperature because it is those same  
9 temperature changes that drive the cost estimates.

10 In summary, the proposed vehicle standards will  
11 have an undetectable effect on surface temperature  
12 which means an undetectable climate "benefit," despite  
13 enormous costs that will be foisted upon unwilling  
14 consumers of vehicles that they would choose not to  
15 purchase today and they would only purchase them  
16 tomorrow if forced to this feckless regulation.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

19 The next speaker will be Katherine Pruitt. You  
20 may now unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
21 the record.

22 MS. PRUITT: Good afternoon. My name is Katherine

1 Pruitt and I'm testifying as a private citizen living  
2 in Takoma Park, Maryland. Thank you for the  
3 opportunity to speak today.

4 I am grateful and relieved after so many rollbacks  
5 of critical public health and environmental protections  
6 under the previous Administration that President Biden  
7 and his Administration have acknowledged the importance  
8 of tackling pollution from the transportation sector  
9 that is contributing to climate change.

10 As you know, earlier this month the world got some  
11 sobering news from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on  
12 Climate Change that affirmed in the starkest terms that  
13 we are in a deepening climate crisis. The UN Secretary  
14 General described the report as a Code Red for  
15 Humanity.

16 I appreciate that the Biden Administration is  
17 taking a small step in the right direction with this  
18 proposal and other broader actions on clean cars,  
19 climate change, and environmental justice which I  
20 support.

21 Today is expected to be another Code Orange Day  
22 here, unhealthy for sensitive groups due to

1 unseasonable warmth, according to the forecast. These  
2 sensitive groups include a lot of people in my family  
3 and in my community. My husband and I are older  
4 adults. My brother has heart disease and diabetes. My  
5 son has exercise-induced asthma.

6 We all need to take precautions and limit our  
7 activities to protect our health when the air quality  
8 is bad.

9 We know that the traffic all around us is  
10 contributing to the problem. We live just a few miles  
11 from I-95 in one direction and the nightmare that is  
12 D.C. traffic in the other direction. The region is  
13 growing and there are more cars and more vehicle miles  
14 traveled all the time.

15 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
16 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.  
17 Gasoline and diesel-powered cars, SUVs, and pickup  
18 trucks pollute the air we breathe and drive climate  
19 change.

20 Stronger standards for cleaner cars, if enacted  
21 now, will make a much-needed difference in my community  
22 and will protect my family.

1           The great thing about setting standards is that it  
2 works and the public supports it. It ensures equitable  
3 access to health and environmental benefits that  
4 cleaner technologies are making available now and into  
5 the future.

6           EPA must finalize the rule this year, 2021, to  
7 cover Model Years 2023 through 2026.

8           Additionally, EPA must also move ahead to set much  
9 stronger standards covering cars, SUVs, and light  
10 trucks through at least 2030 to drive the transition to  
11 zero emission vehicles the nation needs and that  
12 President Biden has called for in his Executive Order.

13           Again, climate change is a health emergency and  
14 the Biden Administration must use all available tools  
15 to promote carbon pollution reductions. There is no  
16 time to delay.

17           Thank you.

18           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

19           As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you'll  
20 receive a notification on your screen that you're being  
21 promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to your  
22 speaking time. You must accept that invitation to be



1 able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
2 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
3 encourage you to do.

4 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
5 their phones when called to testify.

6 If you're having technical difficulties, please  
7 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
8 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
9 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
10 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
11 [public\\_hearing@abt.assoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abt.assoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

12 The next speaker will be Scott Hochberg. You may  
13 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
14 record.

15 MR. HOCHBERG: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is  
16 Scott Hochberg, and I'm a Staff Attorney with the  
17 Center for Biological Diversity.

18 The center is a national nonprofit conservation  
19 organization and its Climate Law Institute works to  
20 protect people, wildlife, and ecosystems from climate  
21 change and fossil fuel pollution.

22 Since taking office, President Biden has vowed to

1 meet the urgent demands of the climate crisis through a  
2 clean energy revolution. He was right about one thing.  
3 We are indeed in a crisis and the term "urgent" is an  
4 understatement.

5 The summer of 2021 is shaping up to be one of the  
6 hottest on record with climate change contributing to  
7 severe drought and wildfires across the globe, extreme  
8 flooding in Europe and China, and a deadly heat wave in  
9 the Pacific Northwest. The time for half measures is  
10 sadly over.

11 This rule represents the EPA's single biggest  
12 chance to actualize the President's commitment. What  
13 was needed at the very least was a return to the Obama  
14 standards in 2023 and a seven percent annual drop in  
15 emissions to make up for lost time under the disastrous  
16 SAFE 2 Rule.

17 But EPA's proposal does not return to the Obama  
18 standards until 2026, despite the fact that automakers  
19 have had almost a decade to prepare for those rules.  
20 Automakers already have the technology to comply with  
21 the Obama standards. Delaying significant emissions  
22 savings until 2026 puts this rule along with the

1 longer-term standards in jeopardy from a future  
2 Administration that might have different goals.

3 EPA describes an Alternative 2+ proposal that hits  
4 closer to the mark through slightly stronger standards  
5 with an additional 10 grams per mile savings in 2026.  
6 In fact, EPA provides no reason why it did not adopt  
7 this alternative from the very beginning.

8 According to EPA's own analysis, Alternative 2 is  
9 feasible given the prior notice of automakers, a  
10 commitment of several of them to the California  
11 Framework, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas  
12 emissions.

13 But even this proposal falls short of what is  
14 needed to meet the country's commitments to addressing  
15 the climate emergency. Instead, EPA should strengthen  
16 its alternative proposal even further with fewer  
17 loopholes and tighter stringency standards that set us  
18 on a path to 100 percent zero emission vehicle sales by  
19 2030.

20 The recent IPCC report was intended to be a Code  
21 Red wakeup call for the world. EPA needs to toughen  
22 this proposal to make it up to the challenge.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 The next speaker will be Greg Harned. You may now  
4 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
5 the record.

6 MR. HARNED: Good afternoon and thank you for the  
7 opportunity to testify.

8 My name is Greg Harned, and I'm a Legal Fellow  
9 with the Climate Law Institute at the Center for  
10 Biological Diversity.

11 In addition to increasing the stringency of the  
12 standards, as my colleague just advocated, EPA should  
13 remove the numerous compliance loopholes from the  
14 credit system that will undermine this rule's emissions  
15 reductions.

16 Electric vehicles are here, effective, and  
17 becoming increasingly affordable. By 2023, EVs are  
18 projected to achieve cost parity with internal  
19 combustion engine vehicles and multiple studies,  
20 including one from the Argonne National Lab, show that  
21 EVs are already cheaper to maintain than ICEVs.

22 Similarly, vehicle range and charging

1 infrastructure has steadily increased, making EVs an  
2 attractive option for many consumers. The driving  
3 force behind the slow adoption of EVs is therefore not  
4 the practicality or cost of EVs but, rather, the  
5 reluctance of obstinant automakers to adopt new  
6 technologies and market EVs.

7 EPA should completely end the use of the credit  
8 multipliers for EVs. The proposed multiplier cap and  
9 2025 sunset provision are insufficient limits on a  
10 credit system that was set to expire in Model Year  
11 2021. Without accounting for good emissions from  
12 electricity generation, the multipliers for EVs failed  
13 to accurately reflect emissions savings and ultimately  
14 overestimate the reductions.

15 Furthermore, EPA should not allow manufacturers to  
16 carry forward model year credits for 2016 and 2020 into  
17 Model Years 2023 and 2026. The 2016 to 2020 credit  
18 system served its purpose by promoting EV production  
19 and automakers have had sufficient time and opportunity  
20 to use existing credits.

21 Extending the credit's lifetimes, as they were set  
22 to expire, is a blatant unwarranted handout to the

1 slowest adapting automakers. It provides no real  
2 benefit to consumers in the form of decreased  
3 emissions, increased EV sales, or cheaper vehicles.

4 Likewise, the credits for full-sized pickups is a  
5 big give-away to the Big 3 automakers. Recent trends  
6 in SUV and pickup sales are the result of automakers'  
7 deplorable decision to shift production and heavily  
8 market vehicles that were cheaper to produce because of  
9 their larger size and looser emission standards. By  
10 providing a pickup truck credit, EPA is not actually  
11 serving consumers best interests but instead  
12 propagating a production trend driven by manufacturer  
13 greed.

14 Lastly, rather than expanding the off-cycle and AC  
15 credit systems, EPA should update its testing  
16 conditions to accurately reflect real-world vehicle  
17 emissions. Sending credits to technologies who  
18 supposed benefits are not captured by current testing  
19 methods risks inaccurately estimating the emissions  
20 saved from those technologies and presents an  
21 opportunity for automakers to program their cars to  
22 cheat the test system.

1           Removing these loopholes and adopting stronger  
2 standards is a crucial step in achieving President  
3 Biden's 2030 and 2050 emissions goals.

4           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

5           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

6           The next speaker will be Liz Scott. You may now  
7 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
8 the record.

9           MS. SCOTT: Thank you.

10           Good afternoon. My name is Liz Scott, and I am  
11 speaking to you today on behalf of the American Lung  
12 Association and the millions of lung health patients  
13 that deserve cleaner air.

14           I want to quickly say that I appreciate that EPA  
15 is moving forward with undoing the rollback of  
16 greenhouse gas standards for light-duty vehicles that  
17 occurred in the previous Administration.

18           As my colleagues have noted here today, we are  
19 calling on EPA to finalize this rule this year and to  
20 make sure it maximizes the health benefits and  
21 emissions reductions.

22           The final standards must not include loopholes

1 that result in emissions reductions on paper that don't  
2 end up benefiting public health in practice.

3 I want to spend the remainder of my short time  
4 today talking about the responsibility EPA has to  
5 protect and improve public health by setting even  
6 stronger standards in the future.

7 Standards under this rule are a necessary step but  
8 are limited to Model Years 2023 to 2026. We need to  
9 see more health-protective standards beyond that.

10 In the Executive Order on Strengthening American  
11 Leadership and Clean Cars and Trucks, the President  
12 directed EPA to establish new multi-pollutant emissions  
13 standards for light- and medium-duty vehicles covering  
14 Model Years 2026 to 2030.

15 Setting up more protective standards now will  
16 ensure that the nation is on track to meet the  
17 President's goal of having 50 percent on passenger  
18 vehicles be zero emission in 2030.

19 We encourage EPA to move quickly to finalize this  
20 current rule and begin the process of future standards  
21 without delay.

22 Pollution from cars is helping to drive climate



1 change which can lead to more excessive heat like what  
2 we've seen across the country and the globe in recent  
3 months and the rise in intensity of extreme weather  
4 events and wildfires.

5 Setting strong greenhouse gas standards for cars  
6 and light trucks is only part of the solution towards a  
7 healthier future.

8 A report released by the American Lung Association  
9 in September of 2020 found that transitioning the  
10 nation to electric light- and heavy-duty vehicles  
11 powered by non-combustion renewable energy would lead  
12 to a \$113 million in climate benefits annually by 2050.

13 Greenhouse gases are not the only pollutant  
14 released by tailpipes. Air pollutants released from  
15 cars contribute to ozone and particulate matter  
16 pollution which both have direct health impacts,  
17 particularly for vulnerable populations, like those  
18 with existing lung disease.

19 Our Road to Clean Air Report also found that a  
20 transition to electric vehicles would yield \$72 billion  
21 in health benefits annually by 2050.

22 To sum up my remarks to you today, we appreciate

1 that this Administration is reversing the rollback of  
2 greenhouse gas standards for light-duty vehicles and  
3 call on you to finalize these standards this year,  
4 ensuring they maximize the benefits to health.

5 Further, we urge EPA to prioritize setting strong  
6 light-duty standards for Model Years 2026 to 2030, plus  
7 heavy-duty vehicle standards, that drive the nationwide  
8 transition to zero emission vehicles.

9 We also will never pass up an opportunity to call  
10 for the support of transitioning the transportation  
11 sector to electric vehicles as soon as possible to set  
12 the nation on a path towards a healthier future.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

15 The next speaker will be Laura Bender. You may  
16 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
17 for the record.

18 MS. BENDER: Hi. My name is Laura T. Bender. I'm  
19 the National Vice President for Healthy Air at the  
20 American Lung Association.

21 Our mission is to save lives by improving lung  
22 health and preventing lung disease, and I thank you for

1 your time today.

2 The American Lung Association puts a high priority  
3 on pushing for policies that drive our nationwide  
4 transition to zero emission vehicles, as you've heard.

5 EPA's proposal is a critical step on the road to  
6 the zero emission future that we're calling for. As  
7 you've heard from my colleagues, we urge EPA to make  
8 this proposed rule as strong as possible to maximize  
9 its health benefits and to keep out loopholes or credit  
10 schemes so that the rule doesn't lead to health harms  
11 that could have been avoided.

12 It also means finalizing the rule this year and  
13 then moving to set stronger standards for future light-  
14 duty vehicles as well as stronger standards for heavy-  
15 duty vehicles.

16 Today, I'd like to use my time to highlight the  
17 breadth of the support of the health community for  
18 cleaning up greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.

19 Climate change is a health emergency. I imagine  
20 many of you on the line today are personally  
21 experiencing some of those impacts right now, just like  
22 millions of Americans across the country.

1           We know that these impacts will get dramatically  
2 worse without strong federal action. In fact, we often  
3 hear from physicians and nurses that they are seeing  
4 the impacts of climate change on their patients right  
5 now.

6           We hear about direct lung health concerns with  
7 student athletes who are exposed too often to wildfire  
8 smoke or parents who have to choose to keep their kids  
9 from playing outside at all on hazardous air days, and  
10 we hear about a whole array of other impacts affecting  
11 everything from cardiovascular health to mental health.

12           That's why health and medical organizations have  
13 been spending years rallying support for cleaner cars.  
14 In 2017, the Lung Association wrote a letter to EPA and  
15 NHTSA signed by more than 700 medical and health  
16 professionals from across the nation urging both  
17 agencies to implement strong state and federal advanced  
18 clean car regulations to protect public health.

19           In 2018, we joined more than 90 national, state,  
20 and local health and medical organizations in  
21 commenting against the SAFE Rule Act.

22           Earlier this year, the Lung Association and 13

1 national health and medical organizations, including  
2 the American Public Health Association, the National  
3 Association of County and City Health Professionals,  
4 the Medical Society, Consortium on Health, and the  
5 American Psychological Association all sent a letter to  
6 President Biden calling on him to set the strongest  
7 possible emissions standards to protect public health.

8 We asked the Administration to act urgently to  
9 ensure the same or better greenhouse gas emissions  
10 reductions scheduled to be achieved under the Obama-era  
11 standards and then set stronger standards through at  
12 least Model Year 2030.

13 And just last month, a robust contingent of the  
14 health community submitted comments to EPA in support  
15 of state authority to set stronger cleaner car  
16 standards, including 28 national, state, and local  
17 health and medical organizations and dozens of health  
18 professionals. In fact, some of the organizations  
19 represented are testifying today and tomorrow.

20 Climate change is a health emergency but it's also  
21 a health opportunity. That's why the health community  
22 supports cleaning up our nation's vehicles because it

1 not only addresses climate change but also provides  
2 immediate benefits to health by eliminating dangerous  
3 tailpipe pollution.

4 The nation urgently needs to reduce greenhouse  
5 gases from transportation to avoid the worst health  
6 impacts of climate change. A nationwide transition to  
7 zero emission vehicles has the potential to provide  
8 immediate benefits to health and to equity.

9 We call on you to drive that transition with this  
10 rulemaking and with future ones.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

13 Our next speaker will be Bob Yuhnke. You may now  
14 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
15 the record.

16 MR. YUHNKE: Hello. My name is Bob Yuhnke. I  
17 serve on the Policy Team at Elders Climate Action and  
18 U.S. Climate Network.

19 Today, I'm representing the 15,000 elders at  
20 Elders Climate Action where I dedicated to leaving a  
21 livable planet for our grandchildren. We cannot do  
22 that alone. Our grandchildren need your help.

1           The world's climate scientists have provided the  
2 targets that we need to meet: cut half of our  
3 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve zero  
4 emissions no later than 2050.

5           President Biden's Executive Order on January 21st  
6 committed to creating a zero emission economy in the  
7 United States by 2050.

8           We also need your help to make the air in our  
9 cities safe for our grandchildren to breathe. We have  
10 201 urban counties holding the population of over 140  
11 million Americans. They're in violation of either the  
12 ozone standard or the particulate standard or both.  
13 Our cities are not a safe place to raise our grandkids  
14 and we need your help to solve that problem, too.

15           This rule package fails to lay out a path to  
16 achieve these targets. The path to zero emissions and  
17 air quality safe for our grandkids to breathe requires  
18 that we replace fossil fuel-burning vehicles with zero  
19 emission vehicles as soon as possible.

20           This is not a technological challenge any longer.  
21 That challenge has been met. We now know how to get to  
22 zero emissions with vehicles that serve the needs of

1 most Americans. What's missing is the commitment to  
2 deploy the technology to achieve the benefits that are  
3 available from implementing that technology.

4 We ask you to join California in establishing  
5 sales targets for zero emission vehicles beginning with  
6 the 2026 Model Year. Other speakers have spoken to the  
7 fact that the industry has been on a path of developing  
8 zero emission vehicles for more than a decade. They  
9 are quite capable of meeting a zero emission vehicle  
10 sales target. We need you to require them to do that.  
11 Sales targets are important to ensure that all  
12 automakers are on the path to a zero emission economy.

13 At this point, you cite in the record that five  
14 automakers are committed to that call, but that leaves  
15 many other automakers who are not committed to that  
16 goal. They must be brought into line with achieving  
17 the goals laid out by the President for zero emission  
18 economy to evolve.

19 Sales targets are also necessary for automakers to  
20 know that they will have a market for vehicles that  
21 will justify their investment in supply chains needed  
22 for the production of batteries and fuel cells to meet



1 the overall needs of our economy.

2 Sales targets, ramping up to a hundred percent of  
3 sales, must be set to ensure that vehicles are  
4 available in time to replace the 280 million internal  
5 combustion engine vehicles that are on the road in the  
6 United States today before 2050.

7 This rule does not start on that path. That is  
8 our primary concern, that the agency has not laid out a  
9 strategy which would be implemented initially by the  
10 first steps taken by this rule to achieve either a zero  
11 emission economy or achieve the emission reductions in  
12 the co-pollutants that are necessary to make our cities  
13 safe.

14 Zero emissions vehicles reduce both the greenhouse  
15 gas emissions and the pollutants that contribute to  
16 ozone formation and particulate exposures. Ozone non-  
17 attainment has been an intractable problem since the  
18 beginning of the Clean Air Act back in the 1960s. We  
19 have not solved that problem.

20 We have seen in fact that with rising  
21 temperatures, ozone concentrations in many American  
22 cities are now becoming worse. They're happening. Our

1 violation days are increasing in number and the peak  
2 concentrations during the summers are rising.

3 Those impacts of climate warming have to be solved  
4 by replacing our internal combustion engine vehicles.  
5 Vehicles are the largest source of emissions that  
6 contribute to ozone formation. Only the elimination of  
7 those emissions will solve that problem.

8 So we ask you to reconsider the rule beginning  
9 with the Model Year 2026 for the purpose of setting in  
10 motion a zero emission mandate that will ultimately  
11 lead to the replacement of the internal combustion  
12 engine in the United States and the problems of both  
13 climate change and dirty air that are associated with  
14 the emissions of those vehicles.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

17 As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you will  
18 receive a notification on your screen that you are  
19 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly before  
20 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
21 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
22 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we

1 encourage you to do.

2 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
3 their phones when called to testify.

4 If you are having technical difficulties, please  
5 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abt.assoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abt.assoc.com) or call  
6 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
7 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
8 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
9 [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

10 The next speaker will be Christopher Harto. You  
11 may now unmute and please state your name and  
12 affiliation for the record.

13 MR. HARTO: Thank you for the opportunity to  
14 testify today.

15 My name is Christopher Harto, and I'm a Senior  
16 Policy Analyst at Consumer Reports.

17 CR supports EPA's efforts to reverse the previous  
18 Administration's disastrous rollback and reinstate  
19 strong light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas standards.

20 However, we believe that this proposal does not go  
21 far enough to meet the climate challenge ahead of us  
22 and will only recover about 75 percent of the consumer

1 and climate benefits of the original Obama/Biden  
2 standards.

3 Consumer Reports has three primary asks of EPA as  
4 you move to quickly finalize this rulemaking.

5 Number 1, Adopt your Alternative 2. Number 2,  
6 Increase the stringency of the standard in 2026 by 10  
7 grams per mile. Number 3, Rein in credits and  
8 loopholes that undermine the real-world benefits of the  
9 rule.

10 EPA's own analysis shows that Alternative 2 will  
11 result in greater net benefits and CR agrees. This  
12 alternative essentially matches the stringency of the  
13 original Obama/Biden standards which automakers already  
14 agreed to almost a decade ago.

15 Furthermore, trends have shown that declining  
16 compliance costs and growth in electrification will  
17 make meeting this level of stringency even easier.  
18 There is no strong justification for setting a strong  
19 standard weaker than Alternative 2.

20 CR also supports increasing the stringency of the  
21 2026 standard by 10 grams per mile. According to EPA's  
22 own analysis, the current proposal will result in less

1 than 10 percent electrification in 2026, putting the  
2 U.S. fleet well behind both automakers and the  
3 President's stated goal of achieving 50 percent  
4 electrification in 2030.

5 Increasing the stringency in 2026 will provide  
6 automakers with sufficient lead time for factoring  
7 these stronger standards into their production plans  
8 while putting the U.S. on a better trajectory to meet  
9 our climate commitments.

10 CR also asks EPA to strongly consider further  
11 limiting credits and multipliers that reduce the  
12 effectiveness of the rule. While CR applauds EPA's  
13 effort to greatly limit the harm done by electric  
14 vehicle multipliers, these multipliers by EPA's own  
15 analysis do not increase electrification and should be  
16 eliminated.

17 CR also questions that expansion of the off-cycle  
18 credit cap without putting into place stronger  
19 requirements to ensure that these technologies actually  
20 deliver real-world benefits.

21 Without sufficient verification of the emissions  
22 savings, these credits have the potential to be a

1 massive give-away to automakers with technologies that  
2 don't deliver real-world benefits.

3 Finally, giving 20 grams per mile and extra  
4 credits for a technology marketed as "power boost"  
5 which only increases fuel economy by two miles per  
6 gallon but increases horsepower by over a hundred  
7 horsepower is unwarranted.

8 At this moment, you have a historic opportunity to  
9 make a difference in the lives of all Americans and we  
10 urge you to seize on it by setting the strongest  
11 possible standards to address this climate emergency.

12 Thank you for your time.

13 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

14 The next speaker will be Brian Jennings. Please  
15 state your name and affiliation for the record.

16 MR. JENNINGS: Good afternoon. My name is Brian  
17 Jennings, and I'm the CEO of the American Coalition for  
18 Ethanol. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

19 Since nearly all of the 270 million light-duty  
20 vehicles on U.S. roads today run on liquid fuel, it  
21 would seem reasonable that in order to significantly  
22 cut CO2 emissions from their tailpipes, consideration

1 must be given to the fuel powering the engines,  
2 including steps to replace petroleum with lower carbon  
3 and higher octane alternatives, such as ethanol.

4 Instead, EPA impractically suggests vehicle  
5 greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced merely by  
6 plugging more vehicles into the grid without much  
7 consideration to how the electricity powering those  
8 cars is generated.

9 I will be the first to admit that when electric  
10 vehicles are actually charged with low carbon power  
11 sources, they could play a meaningful role in reducing  
12 greenhouse gas emissions, but electric vehicles  
13 comprise just two percent of all light-duty vehicles on  
14 the road today and most of them are hybrid that also  
15 use liquid fuels.

16 In other words, even as EV sales increase,  
17 Americans will continue to rely upon billions of  
18 gallons of liquid fuels for decades to come.  
19 Therefore, this proposal must replace (audio glitch)  
20 greater evidence, on improving the quality of liquid  
21 fuel, and the role that low-carbon/high-octane ethanol  
22 can play in making significant greenhouse reductions in

1 the near term.

2 Don't just take my word for it. In January, the  
3 Rhodium Group released a compelling report indicating  
4 that even under the most aggressive sales scenarios,  
5 EVs alone will not achieve net zero emissions by mid-  
6 century. Rhodium explained that meeting this goal  
7 also depends on decarbonizing liquid fuels and CAFE  
8 greenhouse standards.

9 This was followed by an equally-compelling report  
10 by Harvard indicating that just average corn ethanol  
11 greenhouse gas emissions are already 50 percent cleaner  
12 than gasoline.

13 Truth be told, many (audio glitch) are on a  
14 trajectory to reach both net zero and net negative  
15 emissions in the not-too-distant future. If the  
16 overarching goal is net zero emissions by mid-century,  
17 let's start making progress right now by taking full  
18 advantage of the 15 billion gallons of domestically-  
19 produced ethanol available today as an affordable way  
20 to boost octane and meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas  
21 emissions from gasoline-powered engines.

22 I have three recommendations as I conclude my



1 remarks. Number 1, EPA should establish a minimum  
2 research octane number rating for fuel in the range of  
3 98 to 100 RON with 25 to 30 percent ethanol and provide  
4 automakers with the corresponding circ fuel option for  
5 engine testing purposes.

6 Number 2, Adopt the latest Department of Energy  
7 CREET model with respect to the life cycle greenhouse  
8 gas emissions of ethanol and other transportation  
9 fuels.

10 And finally, instead of putting your thumb on the  
11 scale to favor electric vehicles through multipliers  
12 and incentives, establish a technology-neutral approach  
13 that also provides automakers with incentives to  
14 continue producing flexible fuel vehicles and vehicles  
15 optimized to run on higher-octane blends.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

18 The next speaker will be Carolyn Seaman. You may  
19 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
20 for the record.

21 MS. SEAMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to  
22 speak today.

1 My name is Carolyn Seaman, and I am testifying as  
2 a private citizen.

3 Please adopt Alternative 2 which would lead to  
4 cleaner air. I have lived with asthma most of my life  
5 and need clean air to survive.

6 When I was growing up in Los Angeles in the 1970s,  
7 there were many days that I had to go to the hospital  
8 from asthma attacks because of the air pollution. I  
9 was close to death more than once.

10 The air quality has improved since then, but we  
11 need to continue to set high standards for automakers.  
12 My life depends on it and now so does the life of my  
13 young niece who also has asthma.

14 For all of us with respiratory problems, stronger  
15 emission standards for cars are a matter of life and  
16 death. I have a plug-in hybrid car now and would never  
17 go back to a low-mileage gas-powered car. I charge it  
18 with electricity generated by the solar panels on my  
19 house. Not only am I no longer contributing to deadly  
20 pollution but I am saving money on gas and maintenance.  
21 We all need to do our part go make the world a  
22 healthier place to live.

1           Please reinstate the Obama/Biden federal standards  
2 with Alternative 2 and set even stronger ones through  
3 the next decade.

4           Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

5           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

6           The next speaker will be Susan Pate. Please state  
7 your name and affiliation for the record.

8           MS. PATE: Hi. My name is Susan Pate. I'm a  
9 retired computer systems engineer.

10           I have two children, three grandchildren, one with  
11 asthma, but I'm very concerned for their future. I  
12 want them to have an earth to walk on and clean air to  
13 breathe and so that's why I'm testifying today.

14           I relocated from Phoenix to a suburb of St. Louis  
15 about 15 years ago. I subsequently installed a solar  
16 water heater about 13 years ago and have been so very  
17 pleased with how it runs. It's only after two or three  
18 days of no sun that I have to go to my backup  
19 electricity for the solar water heater in order to take  
20 a warm shower.

21           Because of this experience, I recently ordered an  
22 electric car, but it's better than electric because

1 it's run by solar energy. The car will run and I  
2 bought a lower car because of the prices, but I bought  
3 a car for under 30,000 that will get me 40 miles per  
4 gallon on sunshine and if I need to recharge my  
5 battery, I do so by plugging into a regular outlet. We  
6 don't need any special stations for recharging, and I  
7 love this option, and I think we would have zero, that  
8 is, none emissions by using solar energy to run our  
9 cars.

10 I really think that's so cool and it's good for  
11 not only our atmosphere but also our ground because  
12 we're not going to be drilling for oil, we're not going  
13 to be fracking and causing earthquakes, and it's going  
14 to be so much less expensive.

15 So I would like to just urge you to actually make  
16 the standards more stringent for auto emissions and  
17 remove that -- well, add the Alternative 2 so that  
18 nobody has a way to get out of meeting your standards.

19 Thank you for letting me talk today and good luck.

20 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

21 The next speaker will be George Agortsas. You may  
22 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation

1 for the record.

2 MR. AGORTSAS: Thank you.

3 Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to  
4 testify today. My name is George Agortsas, and thank  
5 you for pronouncing my last name really well. I'm here  
6 today as a private citizen. My background is in  
7 engineering. I worked for Western Digital in Southern  
8 California.

9 I support the swift action on clean cars and urge  
10 the EPA to adopt the most stringent standards that  
11 would deliver greater environmental benefits and  
12 savings to consumers.

13 Fundamentally, I'm here today to share my concern  
14 about the future of our children and grandchildren. I  
15 want to leave them a better world so they can thrive.

16 I believe it's difficult to thrive when you're  
17 dealing with health issues related to air pollution.  
18 It's difficult to thrive when the extremes in weather  
19 create dangerous environment. It's difficult to thrive  
20 when economically we're burdened with the aftereffects,  
21 including increased medical costs, increased costs to  
22 address more and more disasters, and costs to address

1 displaced families due to climate change, and other  
2 disasters.

3 That's my main motivation. I really, really want  
4 to leave a better planet for our children and  
5 grandchildren and those that follow.

6 Lastly, we have been leaders in the industrialized  
7 world in developing technologies and thriving  
8 economically from the leadership we've shown over the  
9 last 100 years.

10 I feel that same leadership can be leveraged and  
11 can be used to implement technologies. I believe the  
12 technologies are available. I don't believe that we  
13 have an issue of not having technologies available.

14 It's about adoption of those technologies as fast  
15 as possible to benefit the planet and to benefit  
16 ourselves in the end not only from air pollution but  
17 also economically.

18 As we made the transformation when we were  
19 industrializing, we can make the same transformation  
20 away from a carbon-based economy and we have the  
21 ability to do so. All it takes is willpower.

22 I look to you and our leaders to provide that

1 willpower and provide that leadership so we can  
2 accelerate our transition out of a carbon-based  
3 economy.

4 Therefore, I urge the EPA to adopt these stringent  
5 guidelines for the automotive industry, transportation  
6 industry, so we can reduce emissions because I believe  
7 we can make a difference in the world not only for our  
8 children but also for others as we've done in the past.  
9 I know we're capable. We just need the willpower.

10 On a personal note, I want to share, and I know  
11 not everybody has the means to do this, but over the  
12 last 10 years, I've had three homes and have had solar  
13 panels on all three. So technology is there. Again,  
14 it's a matter of economics for not everybody can afford  
15 solar panels.

16 I've also had hybrid vehicles up until 2008 and  
17 then since 2008 we've gone all electric vehicles and as  
18 others have mentioned, it's very convenient, it's very  
19 cost-effective, and we just need the leadership to  
20 drive the adoption of the available technology.

21 At the end of the day, my belief, my first belief  
22 is that's all it will take for us to get ourselves out

1 of the current situation we've created over the last  
2 hundred years.

3 Thank you for your time. I appreciate the  
4 opportunity to speak.

5 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

6 The next speaker will be Vanessa Lynch. You may  
7 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
8 for the record.

9 MS. LYNCH: Absolutely. Thank you all for this  
10 amazing opportunity to testify today and join all these  
11 other voices saying important and thoughtful things  
12 about how we can support our future generations.

13 My name is Vanessa Lynch, and I'm a Field  
14 Organizer in Pennsylvania for Moms Clean Air Force. I  
15 live in the Pittsburgh area with my husband and two  
16 children.

17 I'm asking the Environmental Protection Agency to  
18 choose the strongest option for their Late Model Light-  
19 Duty Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard which avoids all  
20 loopholes for automakers.

21 The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
22 Change Report summarizes the State of the Science on



1 Climate Change confirming climate change is widespread,  
2 rapid, and intensifying. The report paints a grim  
3 picture of our world's future unless swift and strong  
4 action is taken immediately to curb the pollution  
5 causing global climate change.

6 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
7 carbon pollution in the U.S. We cannot address the  
8 climate crisis without moving decisively to zero  
9 pollution vehicles electrified by zero pollution  
10 electric power sources.

11 In Pennsylvania, climate change is clearly making  
12 an impact. The Pennsylvania Department of  
13 Environmental Protection reports the state has the  
14 highest number of Lyme disease cases in the nation,  
15 triple the number of cases from 10 years ago.

16 If you talk to families in Southwest PA, it's not  
17 if you know someone who's been impacted but, rather,  
18 how severe were those impacts. From short-term  
19 antibiotic treatment to long-term joint pain and  
20 swelling, inflammation of the brain and spinal cord and  
21 nerve pain, my neighbors and friends have experienced  
22 them all.

1           In my local community, landslides and major rain  
2 events are becoming much more frequent. Our family was  
3 recently forced to install an interior French drain in  
4 our basement due to major flooding. Mold and mildew  
5 growth caused major home repair issues and health  
6 concerns as a result of the increase in rain to our  
7 region and these impacts are felt by each of us,  
8 regular American citizens across the country.

9           From 2010 to 2020, Pennsylvania experienced 37  
10 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$10  
11 billion in damages, those creating the increasing  
12 financial burden climate change is becoming to  
13 Pennsylvania's families.

14           In order to set us on the path to 100 percent zero  
15 emissions new vehicle sales by 2035, the near-term  
16 standards for climate pollution must be as strong as  
17 possible and in order to protect families like mine  
18 from the most dire impacts of climate change, the  
19 Environmental Protection Agency must take bold and  
20 ambitious action at every opportunity to protect our  
21 children's health and future.

22           Thank you.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

2 The next speaker will be Kindra Weid. You may now  
3 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
4 the record.

5 MS. WEID: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Kendra  
6 Weid.

7 MS. THOMPSON: Sorry. Didn't nail that one.

8 MS. WEID: I am, first and foremost, a very  
9 concerned and passionate person about the planet and  
10 also I care about others. I am a critical care  
11 registered nurse and I'm also speaking on behalf of MI  
12 Air MI Health. We are a nonprofit bipartisan coalition  
13 of health professionals, mostly nurses, who advocate  
14 for clean air in Michigan. We believe that everyone  
15 deserves to breathe clean and healthy air.

16 As many have already pointed out, I'm going to be  
17 stating a lot of things that have already been said,  
18 but we're all well aware that the transportation sector  
19 is the largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions and  
20 also air pollution that impacts public health.

21 For the record, MI Air MI Health fully supports  
22 the U.S. EPA's proposal to tighten greenhouse gas

1 standards for passenger cars, SUVs, and light trucks  
2 for Models 2023 to 2026, replacing the SAFE Vehicles  
3 Rule.

4 However, we also feel that it's critical to push  
5 even further and we call on you today to set much  
6 stronger standards covering cars, SUVs, and light  
7 trucks through at least 2030.

8 We are in the midst of a climate crisis and  
9 emissions contributing to climate change need to be  
10 eliminated as quickly as possible. The time to act was  
11 yesterday and we are already seeing these effects as  
12 evidenced by the floods in Detroit this summer, most  
13 recently in Tennessee over this past weekend, wildfires  
14 along the Western Coast, extreme heat events, severe  
15 drought. The list of examples goes on and on.

16 Climate change poses very serious threats to  
17 public health and to the lives of all Americans,  
18 especially our most vulnerable, our kids, older adults,  
19 low-income communities, BIPOC communities, and people  
20 living with chronic diseases which is who I see in the  
21 hospital.

22 This is a public health emergency and we need to

1 do everything we can to drive down these emissions from  
2 all sectors but especially the transportation sector.

3 As a nurse in the ICU during this pandemic, I have  
4 witnessed and continue to witness patients with chronic  
5 underlying heart and lung conditions, many of which  
6 could be attributed to or are worsened by their  
7 environment and their exposure to transportation  
8 emissions, based on their proximity to very large  
9 transportation corridors.

10 Research from Harvard University demonstrated this  
11 link between long-term exposure to air pollution and  
12 increased mortality from COVID-19.

13 Again, MI Air MI Health fully supports quickly  
14 finalizing today's proposal to move forward with strong  
15 ambitious greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards  
16 for cars, light trucks, and SUVs.

17 We encourage even more aggressive action. Our  
18 environment, public health, and our most vulnerable  
19 populations can't afford to be idle on this issue, and  
20 I hope that you feel the urgency that I feel. Everyone  
21 deserves to breathe clean and healthy air.

22 Thank you. I apologize.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

2 The next speaker will be Geoff Cooper. You may  
3 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
4 for the record.

5 MR. COOPER: Okay. Well, thank you, and good  
6 afternoon.

7 My name is Geoff Cooper, and I am the President  
8 and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association. The RFA is  
9 the leading voice for America's ethanol industry and  
10 our mission is to advance the development, production,  
11 and use of low-carbon renewable fuels, like ethanol.

12 We appreciate the opportunity to share our  
13 thoughts on EPA's proposed rule today and we will be  
14 submitting more detailed comments in writing.

15 We also endorse the remarks delivered earlier  
16 today by Senator Tom Daschle, who's the Chairman of the  
17 High Octane Low Carbon Alliance, of which RFA is a  
18 founding member.

19 RFA believes well-designed fuel economy and  
20 greenhouse gas standards can work in tandem with  
21 programs, like the renewable fuels standard, to  
22 significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption, improve

1 public health, and combat climate change.

2 If our nation is to reach its goal of net zero  
3 greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century, we'll need  
4 both cleaner, more efficient cars and cleaner, more  
5 efficient fuels, and that's why the members of my  
6 organization recently committed to achieving net zero  
7 carbon footprint for ethanol by 2050 or sooner.

8 Unfortunately, we believe EPA's proposal fails to  
9 recognize that the fuels we put into our engines can  
10 have as much or more impact on fuel economy and  
11 greenhouse gas emissions as the engine technologies  
12 themselves.

13 We believe the proposal missed a critical  
14 opportunity to solicit public comment on potential  
15 regulatory pathways for adopting high-octane/low-carbon  
16 liquid fuels as a means of improving fuel economy and  
17 reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the light-duty  
18 vehicle fleet.

19 Recent studies and analyses, including the  
20 Department of Energy's Comprehensive CoOptima Research  
21 Program, clearly show that ethanol-based high-  
22 octane/low-carbon fuels can increase fuel efficiency by

1 five to nine percent and reduce life-cycle greenhouse  
2 gas emissions per mile by nine percent or more when  
3 paired with the right engine technologies.

4 Why would we leave those low-cost efficiency gains  
5 and emissions reductions on the table, especially when  
6 we all know liquid fuels and internal combustion  
7 engines will continue to dominate light-duty  
8 transportation for decades to come?

9 We also note that EPA's Technical Assessment of  
10 the proposed CO2 standards assumes "broader  
11 availability of high-compression ratio technologies."  
12 EPA assumes those high-compression engines will be  
13 necessary to achieve the '23 through '26 fuel economy  
14 requirements.

15 EPA's proposal notes that an engine with high-  
16 compression natural aspiration and direct injection is  
17 "a very cost-effective internal combustion engine  
18 technology that is in use today and ready for broader  
19 application."

20 But what the proposal fails to mention is that  
21 those engines that utilize high-compression ratio  
22 technology will require higher-octane fuels to prevent



1 premature fuel ignition.

2 In other words, the proposed rule counts on broad  
3 deployment of high-compression ratio engines that will  
4 require high-octane fuel but does nothing to ensure  
5 that those high-octane fuels will actually be produced  
6 or available in the marketplace.

7 Because EPA's relying on these engine technologies  
8 to deliver the fuel efficiency gains and emissions  
9 reductions necessary to meet future standards, we  
10 believe discussion of the high-octane fuels that enable  
11 these technologies is well within the scope of this  
12 rulemaking process and we would urge you to treat any  
13 written comments you receive regarding the role of  
14 octane as germane to this rulemaking.

15 We also ask that the final rule include a  
16 statement expressing the agency's intent to consider  
17 adoption of a high-octane fuel in the range of 98 to  
18 100 RON as part of a future rulemaking to establish  
19 standards for 2027 and beyond.

20 Thank you and I look forward to any questions.

21 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

22 As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you will

1 receive a notification on your screen that you are  
2 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly before  
3 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
4 be able to unmute your call to testify. This will also  
5 allow you to turn on your camera which we encourage you  
6 to do.

7 Speakers connected by phone should unmute their  
8 phones when called to testify.

9 If you are having technical difficulties, please  
10 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
11 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
12 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
13 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
14 [public\\_hearing@abt.assoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abt.assoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

15 We will now move on to the next speaker block.

16 Speaker Block 4

17 MS. THOMPSON: The next speaker will be Jeff  
18 Alson. You may now unmute and please state your name  
19 and affiliation for the record.

20 MR. ALSON: Thank you.

21 My name is Jeff Alson, and I'm speaking on behalf  
22 of the Environmental Protection Network, a group of

1 more than 550 EPA alumni volunteering their time to  
2 protect the integrity of EPA, human health, and the  
3 environment.

4 From 1978 to 2018, I was a senior engineer and  
5 policy advisor at EPA's Office of Transportation Air  
6 Quality, and I worked extensively on the clean car  
7 standards.

8 EPN strongly believes that EPA's top priority must  
9 be a post-2026 rule to establish a clear regulatory  
10 requirement to achieve near 100 percent zero emissions  
11 car and light truck sales by 2035.

12 Transportation is the leading source of U.S. GHG  
13 and it takes about 15 years of new car sales to turn  
14 over the fleet. If the U.S. is to reach the IPCC goal  
15 of net zero emissions by 2050, it's imperative that EPA  
16 promulgate standards to transform the new car fleet to  
17 zero emissions vehicles by 2035, providing critical  
18 regulatory certainty and lead time and a level playing  
19 field for automakers to be EV leaders without worrying  
20 that others may drag their feet.

21 EPN strongly supports the proposed 2023 to 2026  
22 standards as an important building block and the

1 minimum needed to establish a foundation for a strong  
2 2035 rule. Any changes should be made in the direction  
3 of more, not less, stringent standards.

4       There is no question that automakers have  
5 sufficient led time to meet the proposed standards.  
6 Until last year's rollback, manufacturers' product  
7 plans were geared towards meeting the original 2025  
8 standards finalized in EPA's 2012 rule which were  
9 slightly more stringent than the current proposal, and  
10 in fact there are products on the market today that  
11 meet the future standards and existing plans to expand  
12 advanced technologies to more products.

13       Zero emissions vehicles offer large public health  
14 benefits to everyone but especially to vulnerable  
15 communities who are the most at risk to climate-related  
16 extreme weather events as well as to high pollution  
17 levels from urban freeways and oil refineries.

18       The lower and more stable fuel and maintenance  
19 costs of electric vehicles will be a major economic  
20 benefit to low-income communities as unanticipated  
21 gasoline price spikes and repair bills can destroy a  
22 tight family budget.

1           Finally, EPN supports EPA's decision to undertake  
2           its own GHG rulemaking, separate from NHTSA, reversing  
3           the previous Administration's decision to essentially  
4           lock agency staff out of a meaningful role in the 2020  
5           rollback.

6           NHTSA has clear legal limits on considering  
7           electric vehicles from setting CAFE standards and  
8           cannot promulgate CAFE rules for more than five years  
9           at a time, thereby making CAFE limited in its ability  
10          to address long-term climate impacts.

11          It is imperative that future EPA rulemakings not  
12          be constrained by NHTSA's statutory limitations.

13          Thank you.

14          MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

15          The next speaker is William Davidson. You may now  
16          unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
17          the record.

18          MR. DAVIDSON: Thank you for the opportunity to  
19          testify today.

20          My name is Bill Davidson, and I live in New Mexico  
21          with my wife and some of our children. I'm here today  
22          as a concerned citizen.

1 I support the Administration's action on cleaner  
2 cars and urge the EPA to adopt the second alternative  
3 that would deliver savings to consumers, eliminate  
4 loopholes, and, most importantly, reduce pollution and  
5 greenhouse gases.

6 When we built our home several years ago, we built  
7 it to the passive house standard. Our home is super  
8 insulated, air tight, and, thanks to solar panels, it  
9 produces about 35 percent more energy than we use. The  
10 surplus electricity will charge our next electric  
11 vehicle, either an EVA or a plug-in hybrid.

12 I am very concerned about climate change, forest  
13 fires, floods, storms, etcetera, are causing hundreds  
14 of billions of damage and devastating lives here and  
15 abroad. We need automakers to bring more electric cars  
16 and hybrids to market.

17 My wife and I take a lot of driving trips to see  
18 family and our beautiful country and we need and want  
19 cars with great fuel mileage and with long electric  
20 range.

21 Cleaner cars of all types are a win-win for  
22 everyone. Everyone wins with cleaner air. Everyone

1 wins with less dependence on oil, and everyone wins by  
2 slowing and ultimately reversing climate change, and  
3 when I say everyone, I include automakers who will also  
4 win domestically and internationally by selling cleaner  
5 cars.

6 I urge the Administration to set the highest  
7 standards possible because it is the right thing to do.  
8 We should be making our vehicles cleaner and more  
9 efficient. I urge you to adopt the second alternative  
10 and set even higher standards through 2030 and beyond  
11 and ensure there are no loopholes.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

13 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

14 The next speaker will be Laurie Kuntz. You may  
15 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
16 for the record.

17 MS. KUNTZ: Hi. My name is Laurie Kuntz, and I'm  
18 here today as a private citizen.

19 I support this Administration's swift action on  
20 clean cars but urge the EPA to adopt the second  
21 alternative.

22 As a biology graduate, I've been learning about

1 the dangers of climate change and ecological  
2 degradation since the 1990s. Now in the 2020s, we are  
3 close to losing an entire class of species, anthozoa,  
4 commonly known as coral, because of the acidification  
5 and warming of ocean water that occurs with higher  
6 amounts of carbon in the atmosphere.

7 If we lose coral, an entire class of marine  
8 invertebrates, that's the equivalent of losing all  
9 mammals on the planet since mammals are an equivalent  
10 class of land vertebrates. If we lost coral or any  
11 other class of species, I'm confident that we would see  
12 worldwide ecological collapse.

13 If ecosystems can't function properly, the web of  
14 life will be untangled and humans will suffer and die.  
15 In my own area in Idaho, I've seen extreme drought.  
16 I've seen a wildfire come within two miles of my home,  
17 and I've seen reductions in wildlife populations over  
18 the past five years. I've seen birds die of heat  
19 stroke this year. I haven't seen any rusty catch  
20 bumble bees for the past two years, and I've seen  
21 chipmunks and birds with tumors caused by a degraded  
22 environment.



1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the only way  
2 to change this path and prevent ecological collapse.  
3 We must enact the strongest fuel economy standards  
4 possible and support incentives and infrastructure for  
5 electric vehicles in order to achieve this.

6 I bought my first electric vehicle in 2016 and my  
7 second EV in 2018. These vehicles have cost me about  
8 \$13 a month in extra electricity compared to  
9 approximately \$250 a month in gasoline that I bought  
10 when I commuted to work in a gas vehicle.

11 I've also seen huge savings in maintenance costs  
12 since there are no spark plugs to replace, no belts,  
13 and no engine to require oil changes.

14 Setting strong federal clean car standards through  
15 2026 can put us back on track to save consumers up to  
16 \$80 billion in reduced gas, maintenance, and price  
17 costs over the lifetime of new vehicles purchased  
18 during the next five years while restoring clean air in  
19 our communities.

20 I do support the EPA's Alternative 2 in the  
21 proposed rule since it would eliminate many loopholes  
22 and would impose stronger standards for automakers.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 The next speaker on our list is Ken Webb. Ken, we  
4 do not currently see you listed on the list of  
5 attendees. However, if you have joined using a  
6 different name, we'd ask that you use the Raise Your  
7 Hand feature at this time, and if you have joined by  
8 calling in, you should be able to raise your hand by  
9 dialing Star 9 on the phone.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will move on to our next  
12 speaker.

13 The next speaker is Rene St. Julien. You may now  
14 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
15 the record.

16 MR. ST. JULIEN: Thank you for the opportunity to  
17 testify today.

18 My name is Rene St. Julien, and I'm here as a  
19 private citizen.

20 I support this Administration's swift action on  
21 clean cars but also urge the EPA to adopt their second  
22 alternative which would deliver greater savings to

1 consumers and eliminate unnecessary loopholes for  
2 automakers.

3 I moved to Dallas, Texas, over 50 years ago, after  
4 completing my enlistment in the U.S. Air Force as a  
5 weatherman. As a weatherman, I recorded the weather  
6 and visibility for pilots and so watching the weather  
7 as a hobby has been what I've done ever since.

8 When I began working in Dallas, I worked in high-  
9 rise office buildings and noticed it was easy to see  
10 over 20 miles away from the upper floors. Before I  
11 retired a couple of years ago, the visibility was down  
12 to about two to three miles.

13 Of course, some of my coworkers called the brown  
14 layer that loomed over the city "morning haze" instead  
15 of what it really was, air pollution caused by the  
16 congested sluggish crawl of commuter traffic.

17 The world has seen incredible technological  
18 innovations over the past 40 years, many things  
19 changing at a speed which was almost hard to keep up  
20 with. Who would have thought even a couple of years  
21 ago that we could have a virtual meeting like this on  
22 Zoom?

1           Meanwhile, the automotive industry still produces  
2 cars and trucks using the same fossil fuel-burning  
3 internal combustion engines that were being made in the  
4 early 1900s.

5           About all the auto industry has done is taken the  
6 same technology and refined it a little every decade,  
7 generally in the areas of comfort, style, and  
8 reliability. For the most part, changes in the areas  
9 of safety or the environment are rarely made  
10 voluntarily and only when the Federal Government  
11 mandates it.

12           It appears that the open market competition has  
13 failed us. After 120 years, the extremely complex  
14 internal combustion engine should be retired. Tesla's  
15 the only car manufacturer that has dared to take on the  
16 status quo.

17           Our culture needs to set its expectations much  
18 higher as to what is possible when the best minds get  
19 to work. We need to stop wallowing in the past and  
20 start getting innovation and competition to accelerate  
21 us into a true clean energy future at a much faster  
22 rate than past standards have set.

1           In conclusion, I would like to urge this  
2 Administration to be aggressive and set the strongest  
3 possible standards. They also need to prioritize  
4 Alternative 2 in the proposed ruling eliminating  
5 unnecessary loopholes for automakers.

6           Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

7           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

8           The next speaker is Gregory Caudill. Gregory, we  
9 do not at this time see you in our list of attendees.  
10 However, if you have joined using a different name, we  
11 would invite you to raise your hand. If you have  
12 called in, you can raise your hand by dialing Star 9 on  
13 your phone.

14           (No response.)

15           MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will move on to the next  
16 speaker.

17           The next speaker is Jenna Riemenschneider. You  
18 may now unmute and please state your name and  
19 affiliation for the record.

20           MS. RIEMENSCHNEIDER: I'm Jenna Riemenschneider,  
21 Director of Advocacy at the Asthma and Allergy  
22 Foundation of America, also known as AAFA.

1           Founded in 1953, AAFA is the oldest and largest  
2           patient advocacy organization for those with asthma and  
3           allergic disease and we support the Administration's  
4           proposal to strengthen greenhouse gas standards for  
5           passenger cars, SUVs, and light trucks.

6           I am speaking both on behalf of AAFA National and  
7           on behalf of our AAFA Michigan Chapter.

8           25 million Americans have asthma, including over  
9           six million children, and over 3,600 people die each  
10          year from asthma. That's about 10 people a day. It's  
11          a chronic disease that causes your airways to become  
12          inflamed, making it hard to breathe, and there is no  
13          cure for asthma.

14          In the United States the burden of asthma falls  
15          disproportionately on the black, Hispanic, American  
16          Indian, and Alaska Native populations, and especially  
17          on children. These groups have disproportionately high  
18          rates of poor asthma outcomes, including  
19          hospitalizations and deaths.

20          In fact, as documented in our 2020 Asthma  
21          Disparities Report, black Americans are three times  
22          more likely to die from asthma than white Americans and

1 five times more likely to be treated in an emergency  
2 room, and black women have the highest death rates from  
3 asthma versus any other group.

4 Poor air quality and exposure to air pollution is  
5 a very significant risk factor, both for developing  
6 asthma and for those who already have an asthma  
7 diagnosis.

8 That's why clean air and addressing the climate  
9 crisis are particularly important to the asthma and  
10 allergy community and especially those in racial and  
11 ethnic minorities.

12 As the leading contributor to air pollution and  
13 the largest source of climate pollution in the U.S.,  
14 cleaning up the transportation sector represents  
15 immense opportunity for public health benefits.

16 Measures to reduce vehicle emissions will address  
17 the burden of air pollution on two fronts. First, the  
18 populations near highways will benefit from reduced  
19 pollution in their immediate outdoor environments and,  
20 second, other communities will benefit from the  
21 upstream pollution reductions associated with the  
22 extraction, transportation, and refinement of petroleum

1 products.

2 As we know, the communities most impacted on both  
3 fronts are disproportionately low-income, largely  
4 racial and ethnic minority populations, making this  
5 proposal an environmental justice imperative.

6 We support clean and safe air for everyone bur  
7 especially for vulnerable populations, like those with  
8 asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. EPA's  
9 proposal is a good start to addressing the previous  
10 Administration's rollbacks but that's just it. It's a  
11 start.

12 We must make haste to finalize the rule this year  
13 and we must make haste to set up even more health  
14 protective standards beyond that. Climate change is a  
15 public health emergency and we cannot afford to delay  
16 action.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

19 The next speaker is Mary Mathews. At this time we  
20 do not see Mary listed in the -- among the attendees.  
21 However, Mary, if you have joined using a different  
22 name, we would invite you at this time to raise your



1 hand, and if you have joined by calling in today, you  
2 can dial Star 9 on the phone to raise your hand.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will move to the next  
5 speaker on our list.

6 The next speaker is Daniel Gage. You may now  
7 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
8 the record.

9 MR. GAGE: Hi. I'm Daniel Gage, President of  
10 Natural Gas Vehicles for America. We're a national  
11 trade association dedicated to the decarbonization of  
12 transportation sector through the increased use of  
13 gaseous fuels, including renewable and conventional  
14 natural gas and eventually hydrogen.

15 Our 200+ members support the ultimate goal of  
16 Model Year 2023 and later light-duty GHG standards to  
17 decarbonize the transportation sector as quickly as  
18 possible while greatly reducing the harmful criteria  
19 emissions that contribute to poor air quality and  
20 federal ambient air standards non-attainment.

21 In comments to previous Administrations, NBG  
22 America consistently articulated that renewable natural

1 gas should be a key part of any inclusive mix for three  
2 main reasons.

3 Number 1, RNG is a zero carbon now solution.  
4 Latest data puts the carbon intensity of bio-CNG in  
5 California's system at negative 16.57 grams of CO2  
6 equivalent per mega jewel. That's the lowest of any  
7 on-road motor fuel energy source, including fully-  
8 renewable electric from solar or wind.

9 Number 2, RNG is the dominant natural gas motor  
10 fuel. Last year, RNG displaced conventional natural  
11 gas derived from fossil sources as the dominant on-road  
12 fuel source nationwide. In California with its Low-  
13 Carbon Fuel Standard Program, 92 percent of NGB motor  
14 fuel is from renewable sources today.

15 Number 3, natural gas motor fuel is increasingly  
16 sustainable and carbon-free. By 2030, 80 percent of  
17 natural gas on-road motor fuel in the United States  
18 will be derived from renewable sources, rising to 100  
19 percent by 2050.

20 NGB America agrees that climate change is  
21 cumulative. The longer we wait, the harder it gets to  
22 solve and there is no single perfect, affordable, and

1 immediate solution to addressing transportation-related  
2 climate change emissions. Thus, all clean options must  
3 be advanced to make a collective difference beginning  
4 now.

5 This proposed rulemaking would roll back  
6 improvements advanced by the previous Administration  
7 that removed barriers to natural gas certification and  
8 incentivized expanded natural gas vehicle production in  
9 the form of sales multipliers. These sales multiplier  
10 incentives should not be eliminated but reinstated and  
11 expanded to advance every available affordable and  
12 scalable clean car solution.

13 Not every fleet is the same. So providing  
14 significant renewable natural gas vehicle incentives to  
15 automakers will allow for flexibility to meet those  
16 varied needs. Existing RNG programs will reward  
17 renewable fuel production but the RFS Program -- I'm  
18 sorry -- rewards renewable fuel program, but it does  
19 not reward vehicle production.

20 Without incentives for vehicle manufacturers,  
21 there will be no NGVs, not when other technologies are  
22 mandated, heavily subsidized, and supported by

1 disproportionate incentives.

2 Expanded deployment of affordable and available  
3 zero carbon RNG trucks and work vans will meet the  
4 Administration's goal of getting more clean replacement  
5 vehicles on the road right away, impacting frontline  
6 communities sooner, and an established, mature, and  
7 varied RNG refueling infrastructure already exists  
8 coast-to-coast.

9 Finally, when EPA considers GHG emissions in the  
10 transportation sector, it must look beyond tailpipe.  
11 All emissions matter, well-to-wheel and mile-to-mile.  
12 EPA's regulations must be amended to ensure that  
13 manufacturers have greater reason to produce ultra-low  
14 carbon motor vehicles that operate on biofuels, not  
15 just vehicles that have so-called zero tailpipe  
16 emissions.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

19 As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you will  
20 receive a notification on your screen that you're being  
21 promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to your  
22 speaking time. You must accept that invitation to be

1 able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
2 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
3 encourage you to do.

4 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
5 their phones when called to testify.

6 If you are having technical difficulties, please  
7 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
8 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
9 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
10 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
11 [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

12 The next speaker on our list is Ulla Reeves. We  
13 do not currently have you listed as an attendee.  
14 However, if you have joined using a different name, we  
15 would encourage you to raise your hand at this time and  
16 if you have called in to the meeting today, you can  
17 dial Star 9 to raise your hand.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. THOMPSON: The next speaker on our list is Jim  
20 Caruso. We do not have Jim listed as an attendee at  
21 this time. However, Jim, if you have joined using a  
22 different name, we would invite you to raise your hand

1 at this time and as a reminder, if you have joined  
2 using your phone, you can dial Star 9 to raise your  
3 hand.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. THOMPSON: We will move on to the next speaker  
6 on our list.

7 The next speaker will be Chris Nevers. You may  
8 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
9 for the record.

10 MR. NEVERS: Thank you for the opportunity to  
11 testify today.

12 My name is Chris Nevers, Senior Director of Policy  
13 at Rivian, where our mission is to keep the world  
14 adventurous forever.

15 Rivian is an independent U.S. EV-only manufacturer  
16 building electric adventure vehicles in Normal,  
17 Illinois, including our R1T truck, 1S SUV, and an  
18 electric delivery van for Amazon.

19 The R1T and 1S are regulated under the EPA Light-  
20 Duty Greenhouse Gas Program and together with the  
21 electric delivery van will displace some of the largest  
22 and most polluting vehicles on the road with all-

1 electric options.

2 We greatly appreciate EPA's vision of these  
3 standards and the proposal to restore California and  
4 state authority. Course correction in this regulation  
5 after the dramatic rollback is no easy task.

6 The proposal covers the largest federal program  
7 regulating greenhouse gas emissions. Its importance to  
8 the auto industry, economy, and the environment cannot  
9 be understated.

10 This proposal is making leads in the right  
11 direction and we endorse Alternative 2 as the proposed  
12 option with the most environmental and economic  
13 benefit. We applaud the top line year-over-year  
14 efficiency improvements and the Administration's vision  
15 on EV deployment and we believe the top line  
16 improvements can be reached without new provisions that  
17 otherwise diminish the promised environmental and  
18 economic benefits.

19 To pursue this vision, our analysis has identified  
20 some provisions likely to result in delays to the  
21 stated goals of this Administration. These proposed  
22 elements are not necessary given the rapidly-growing

1 availability of EVs in every market segment.

2 A simple regulatory framework aligned with the  
3 auto industry's recent investments and commitments will  
4 help achieve the President's goals and accelerate  
5 environmental and economic benefits.

6 To achieve President Biden's vision, we recommend  
7 the following. First, we urge EPA to reduce or  
8 eliminate some of the additional flexibilities and  
9 extensions of various credit programs, specifically  
10 advise against extending the lifetime of expired  
11 credits and against reviving the strong hybrid truck  
12 incentive.

13 We also urge maintaining the off-cycle credit cap  
14 at 10 grams per mile. Collectively, these elements  
15 would significantly weaken this program if adopted.

16 Secondly and perhaps counterintuitively, we  
17 recommend not extending the credit multiplier for van  
18 technology vehicles. This multiplier is no longer  
19 needed and weakens the program by double-counting  
20 emissions reductions. So like the extension of  
21 credits, we recommend not extending the advanced  
22 technology multiplier.



1           Finally, we recommend that EPA update its baseline  
2   fleet beyond 2017 market data and clarify the  
3   assumption of a 50/50 car-truck fleet mix. This  
4   baseline fleet does not affect recent EV expansion nor  
5   does it reflect the increase in demand for trucks over  
6   cars.

7           In closing, I've had the privilege in my career  
8   observing this program from multiple perspectives,  
9   including the agency, conventional industry, the trade  
10   association, and now Rivian. I've seen what the  
11   collective ambition of this industry can achieve.

12           Some stakeholders are advocating for additional  
13   flexibility and less stringent standards in the short  
14   term but now is not the time to sit back, accept  
15   delayed economic and environmental gains, and let other  
16   markets take the lead in developing the advanced  
17   vehicles.

18           Let's continue driving electrification and job  
19   creation forward in the U.S. by building on what  
20   manufacturers have already begun. We ask that the EPA  
21   adopt Alternative 2 without additional flexibilities,  
22   thereby ensuring American competitiveness and that the

1 promised environmental and economic benefits are  
2 realized.

3 We also look forward to EPA quickly moving on  
4 reauthorizing the Clean Air Act Waiver for California  
5 and Section 177 states.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

8 The next speaker is Edith Zewadski-Bricker. You  
9 may now unmute and please state your name and  
10 affiliation for the record.

11 MS. ZEWADSKI-BRICKER: Thank you for the  
12 opportunity to speak today.

13 I am Edith Zewadski-Bricker, Social Action Liaison  
14 to the Florida Conference Leadership Team of the United  
15 Methodist Women.

16 I'm here today as a private citizen and a woman of  
17 faith to advocate for the strongest vehicle emissions  
18 standards possible.

19 We are in a moment where our policy choices will  
20 impact the present and the future, harming those that  
21 are poor the most.

22 As leaders, you have the grave responsibility to

1 alleviate the climate crisis, to protect the poor here  
2 and around the world, to protect generations to come,  
3 to protect our nation's sovereignty, and ultimately to  
4 save the planet.

5 This purpose frames the issues discussed here  
6 today. The current Administration has recognized the  
7 urgent need for increased vehicle efficiency and  
8 limited vehicle planet-warming emissions is the very  
9 reason. The Environmental Protection Agency must do no  
10 less.

11 Now is not the time to pander to the automakers  
12 with complex credit schemes and tax loopholes that can  
13 be manipulated in the name of profits. Please remember  
14 the climate crisis is the Number 1 issue facing the  
15 nation and the world.

16 Unfortunately, only the policymakers, not  
17 individual citizens, can tackle these issues in a  
18 significant way.

19 I am here because global warming is slated to  
20 flood the Florida Keys, my home. Here in South  
21 Florida, the Miami-Herald headline reads Sea Rise under  
22 Scrutiny in Condo Collapse. How many condos will

1 collapse as the changing climate exacerbates the damage  
2 from hurricanes? How much will state and local  
3 governments spend uselessly fighting sea level rise?

4 I implore you to see past the politics, past the  
5 powerful, past the profits, and even past the present  
6 to the impact of your decisions on the future.

7 As long as I'm here now, consider the poor and  
8 inner city Miami whose children are already dying from  
9 asthma and pneumonia and COVID-19 as a direct or  
10 indirect result of diesel fuel bus and gasoline vehicle  
11 emissions.

12 Just today in our local paper, we read about the  
13 farmers in Homestead concerned with saltwater intrusion  
14 into South Florida's water supplies from sea level rise  
15 and an increase in pests and disease that thrives in  
16 warmer climates. In the Herald yesterday, we read  
17 about outdoor workers subject to increased  
18 temperatures.

19 In your wisdom, from the depths of your soul, as  
20 the voice of conscience, that little Jiminy Cricket on  
21 your shoulder, decide in favor of the strictest  
22 emissions standards and the highest of vehicle

1 efficiency that will exceed the Obama/Biden federal  
2 standards.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

5 The next speaker is Molly Collins. You may now  
6 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
7 the record.

8 MS. COLLINS: Thank you so much for the  
9 opportunity to speak with you today about this critical  
10 topic.

11 I'm Molly Collins. I'm here as a private citizen  
12 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

13 I'd also like to thank this Administration for  
14 acknowledging the importance of tackling climate  
15 pollution from transportation which, as others have  
16 mentioned today, is an important step in the right  
17 direction.

18 I wanted to share my story with you today and ask  
19 you to commit to making the strongest possible clean  
20 car standards so that my two kids and my community can  
21 breathe easier.

22 My son Dylan was born with some health challenges

1 and one of those was asthma, and it was really tough to  
2 have to hold a toddler still while he did his nebulizer  
3 treatments and it was extremely scary as a new mother  
4 to worry that my child could not breathe.

5       Fortunately, we came through that challenge okay.  
6 He turned 20 this week. He's about to begin his second  
7 year of college, but his whole life Dylan has been  
8 pretty impacted by air quality and like a lot of people  
9 in our community here in Milwaukee, which is on the  
10 American Lung Association's list of the 25 Cities with  
11 the Worst Ozone Pollution, getting those air quality  
12 alerts on your phone can impact a lot about how you  
13 live your life that day and what you're able to do and  
14 as I'm sure you know, the increasing temperatures due  
15 to climate change make ozone more likely to form and  
16 that impacts a lot of people.

17       People should have the freedom to move through  
18 their day not worrying about whether or not they're  
19 going to be able to breathe. It's past time we take  
20 action and start to meaningfully work towards  
21 environmental justice.

22       Earlier this month, a report from the UN

1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that we  
2 are on the path towards catastrophic destruction if we  
3 do not make serious cuts in our greenhouse gas  
4 emissions as soon as possible.

5 We must act with the urgency our situation  
6 requires. We are seeing the effects of our  
7 indifference in the news every day as extreme storms,  
8 wildfires, earthquakes, etcetera, and I hate that I'm  
9 leaving our planet in this state to my children.

10 We have the tools to begin to address these  
11 issues. The EPA must finalize the rule this year and  
12 ensure that these standards result in real-world  
13 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

14 I hope my kids, our community, and I can count on  
15 you to move forward with bold greenhouse gas and fuel  
16 efficiency standards for cars, light trucks, and SUVs  
17 that accelerate the critical transition to zero  
18 emission vehicles.

19 Thank you so much.

20 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

21 The next speaker is Claudia Hidalgo. We do not  
22 currently see Claudia listed as an attendee. However,

1 if you have joined using a different name, we would  
2 invite you to raise your hand at this time, and if you  
3 have called in to the meeting today, you can raise your  
4 hand by dialing Star 9 on your phone.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. THOMPSON: We will move to the next speaker.

7 The next speaker is Lara Levison. You may now  
8 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
9 the record.

10 MS. LEVISON: Thank you.

11 My name is Lara Levison, and I am testifying as a  
12 private citizen and a member of several environmental  
13 organizations.

14 I request that EPA and NHTSA make the clean air  
15 standards much stronger than you have proposed in the  
16 draft rule. As we know, the transportation sector is  
17 now the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in  
18 the U.S.

19 My boyfriend and I were on a road trip this  
20 weekend. Our highways are filled with rivers of cars  
21 and trucks and the vehicles keep getting bigger. We  
22 need to improve their efficiency. Even I have a bigger



1 car than I used to since my boyfriend is an antique  
2 dealer.

3 Stronger clean car standards will give us greater  
4 reductions in climate pollution which we desperately  
5 need and will save us consumers money, as well.

6 I heard on the news this morning that today here  
7 in Washington, D.C., will be the 41st day this summer  
8 with temperatures of 90 degrees or higher. When I  
9 first learned about global warming several decades ago,  
10 I didn't think I'd see the effects in my lifetime but  
11 they're now all around us.

12 Congress gave the Administration the authority to  
13 require clear vehicle emissions in the Energy  
14 Independence and Security Act which passed in 2007. At  
15 that time I worked for Speaker Pelosi in the Speaker's  
16 Office and I helped to get that clean energy and  
17 climate bill passed.

18 I did not work on the fuel efficiency provisions  
19 in the bill, but I watched the negotiations on those  
20 provisions play out. It took a lot of work and  
21 political capital for Speaker Pelosi and her allies to  
22 overcome the entrenched resistance of the automakers

1 and their allies to get that provision into the bill.

2 Thanks to Speaker Pelosi and the advocates for  
3 greater fuel efficiency inside and outside of Congress,  
4 you have the authority to make auto emissions cleaner.  
5 You should not squander this opportunity to tackle the  
6 climate crisis and save consumers money.

7 Thank you for considering my views.

8 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

9 The next speaker is Karen McElfish. We do not  
10 currently have you listed among the attendees.  
11 However, if you joined using a different name, we would  
12 invite you to raise your hand at this time, and if you  
13 have called in, you may raise your hand by dialing Star  
14 9 on your phone.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. THOMPSON: We will move on to the next speaker  
17 on our list.

18 The next speaker is Maria Hase. Maria, we do not  
19 have you currently listed as an attendee. However, if  
20 you have joined using a different name, we would  
21 encourage you to raise your hand at this time, and if  
22 you have called in, you can raise your hand by dialing

1 Star 9 on your phone.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. THOMPSON: We will move on to the next  
4 speaker.

5 The next speaker will be Eve Lukens-Day. You may  
6 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
7 for the record.

8 MS. LUKENS-DAY: Hello. My name is Eve Lukens-  
9 Day, and I'm here today as an associate with  
10 Environment America, a national network of 29 state  
11 environmental groups with members and supporters across  
12 the country who want clean air and a healthy climate.  
13 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

14 I would like to thank this Administration for  
15 taking the first steps to roll back the attacks the  
16 previous Administration placed on clean car standards  
17 by reinstating limits on vehicle pollution.

18 However, I urge you to make the proposed standards  
19 even stronger to ensure the greatest reduction in  
20 global warming emissions and air pollution and to  
21 accelerate the expansion of the electric vehicle  
22 market.

1 I'm here today because as a young person I'm  
2 concerned about having a livable future to inhabit.  
3 Transportation is now the Number 1 source of climate  
4 emissions in the U.S. and the majority of those  
5 emissions come from every-day cars and trucks.

6 These emissions also cut short an estimated 58,000  
7 American lives every year. We've already seen the  
8 damage climate change can do this year. Where I live  
9 in Philadelphia, we've entered our sixth heat wave of  
10 the summer this week and experienced intense flash  
11 flooding and rainfall for the last few months.

12 Scientists are saying that these impacts are  
13 coming even faster than they previously expected. So  
14 it's imperative that we do everything we can to clean  
15 up how we get around to curb the progression of the  
16 climate crisis.

17 The preferred alternative identified by EPA is not  
18 as strong as the Obama/Biden standard and is riddled  
19 with loopholes and give-aways to automakers that  
20 undermine otherwise strong emissions reduction targets.

21 It's been almost 10 years since the Obama/Biden  
22 vehicle fuel efficiency standards were set. We must

1 start by reinstating at least those standards and  
2 ideally stronger ones as the climate crisis has  
3 progressed rapidly over the last decade.

4 The sense of these standards are essential in  
5 spurring innovation and clean car technology, but the  
6 U.S. can achieve 100 percent zero emission vehicle  
7 sales by 2035 which is in line with the Biden  
8 Administration's goal of net zero greenhouse gas  
9 emissions by 2050.

10 The EPA itself identifies a much better rule,  
11 Alternative 2, which would put 400,000 extra electric  
12 vehicles on the road by 2026 and result in a 130  
13 million metric tons fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

14 Once again, I urge this Administration to set the  
15 strongest standards possible because they are working.  
16 We should maximize the benefits by making our cars and  
17 light-duty trucks more efficient and I urge you to go  
18 back to at least the Obama/Biden federal standards and  
19 ideally to even stronger ones.

20 This is essential in ensuring that we have safe  
21 air to breathe today and a livable future to inhabit  
22 tomorrow.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 As a reminder, if you have speaking today, you  
4 will receive a notification on your screen that you are  
5 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
6 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
7 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
8 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
9 encourage you to do.

10 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
11 their phones when called to testify.

12 If you're having any technical difficulties,  
13 please send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or  
14 call 919-294-7712, and if you are not registered to  
15 speak but you would like to speak tomorrow, August  
16 26th, please send an e-mail with your name and phone  
17 number to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-  
18 7712.

19 The next speaker will be Kent Minault. You may  
20 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
21 for the record.

22 MR. MINAULT: Hi. Thanks so much for taking my

1 testimony today.

2 I'm Kent Minault. I work for the Sierra Club, but  
3 I'm speaking as a private citizen today from Knoxville,  
4 Tennessee, where I live, and I'm calling to urge EPA to  
5 adopt the second alternative and basically to treat the  
6 climate disruption as the crisis that it is.

7 Here in Knoxville, the city is attempting to take  
8 some strong measures to deal with the climate crisis  
9 and I was privileged to sit in on the Mayor's Climate  
10 Council a year ago when they started meeting and we  
11 received some information, graphs showing the  
12 greenhouse gas reductions from building efficiency and  
13 especially dramatic greenhouse gas reductions that came  
14 from changing all the street lights to LED, but it was  
15 another slide that really shocked us all because it  
16 showed that a spike in transportation emissions was  
17 four times greater than all those other reductions.

18 In other words, despite our city's best efforts to  
19 this point, we were actually going backwards and  
20 transportation was the reason.

21 Throughout the United States, utilities are making  
22 strides at greenhouse gas reductions and so are

1 municipalities and counties and I sat in yesterday on a  
2 webinar hosted by the previous speaker about school bus  
3 adoption, as well, and we're starting to take steps on  
4 that in Tennessee.

5 But I urge you to take the most stringent stance  
6 you can take in regulating greenhouse gas emissions  
7 from transportation because that's the hard nut. We're  
8 progressing in a lot of areas, but if we don't lick  
9 transportation, then we'll lose the climate fight.

10 Thank you so much for your kind attention.

11 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

12 The next speaker will be Elizabeth Hauptman. You  
13 may now unmute and please state your name and  
14 affiliation for the record.

15 MS. HAUPTMAN: Hi. I'm Elizabeth Hauptman, and  
16 I'm with Moms Clean Air Force, Michigan.

17 My name is Elizabeth Hauptman, and I live in  
18 Brighton, Michigan. Air pollution from the  
19 transportation sector not only harms the health of our  
20 children but it also contributes to the climate crisis.

21 On behalf of Moms Clean Air Force and nearly  
22 30,000 members throughout Michigan, I'm asking the EPA



1 to implement the strongest vehicle pollution standards  
2 possible. Pollution harms all of us but  
3 disproportionately impacts children. Kids are smaller,  
4 living closer to the ground than the rest of us,  
5 standing just about tailpipe high where concentrations  
6 from pollution from cars, trucks, and buses is coming  
7 directly at them.

8 Children's still developing hearts and lungs are  
9 being exposed to the dirty exhaust from vehicles that  
10 spew carcinogenic poisons into the air. This tailpipe  
11 pollution causes poor air quality that can exacerbate  
12 asthma, causing more asthma attacks, resulting in  
13 millions of missed school days, games, and outdoor  
14 family activities for kids across the country.

15 My son has asthma and his disease is made worse by  
16 air pollution. In the summertime, we need to watch our  
17 weather app to see if it's safe for our son to play  
18 outdoors. On hot days when the air quality is  
19 terrible, I know he's going to have a tough day. As a  
20 mother who's seen the fear in her son's face as his  
21 chest tightens and he gasps to breathe, we must do more  
22 to protect him and the children who suffer from this

1 chronic illness.

2 Parents like me far too often have had to rush  
3 home after soccer games, swimming on hot summer days,  
4 to use our children's nebulizers. Michigan has some of  
5 the worst asthma rates in the country, according to the  
6 American Lung Association. Childhood asthma rates are  
7 significantly higher for children of color. Latino  
8 children are twice as likely to die from asthma and  
9 black children are 10 times more likely to die from  
10 asthma than white non-Hispanic kids.

11 These statistics make it abundantly clear that  
12 strong clean standards or a shift to zero emission  
13 vehicles is an environmental and social justice issue.  
14 Our children deserve justice in every breath. Because  
15 my son and over 166,000 children in Michigan who suffer  
16 from asthma need tougher air quality standards to  
17 protect their children from the nation's largest source  
18 of carbon pollution, tailpipe pollution.

19 In addition, we need these strong EPA standards to  
20 address the urgent climate crisis now. This climate  
21 crisis is not something you'll see impacts some day in  
22 the future. We're seeing climate impacts right now,

1 extreme weather events, like excessive rainfall, storms  
2 like we had last night, floods, heat waves.

3 Currently the strong clean standards are the best  
4 tool we have in our toolbox to fight climate change.  
5 Addressing pollution from the transportation sector  
6 will fight climate change cannot wait. Michiganders  
7 and kids deserve the strongest clean car standards EPA  
8 has proposed.

9 Thank you very much for taking my testimony today.

10 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

11 The next speaker will be Mary Mathews. Mary, you  
12 will need to accept the invitation to become a panelist  
13 in order to unmute.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Looks like Mary may have  
16 dropped from the call and so at this time, we will move  
17 on to the next speaker group.

18 Speaker Block 5

19 MS. THOMPSON: The first speaker will be Amanda  
20 Begley. Amanda, you will need to accept the invitation  
21 to become a panelist in order to unmute.

22 MS. BEGLEY: Hello. Can you see me?

1 MS. THOMPSON: Yes, and we can hear you.

2 MS. BEGLEY: Okay. All right. Hello, everyone.  
3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

4 My name is Amanda Begley from Los Angeles,  
5 California, and I'm here today as a private citizen.

6 I thank this Administration for acting swiftly on  
7 clean cars but urge EPA to create the strongest  
8 possible limits on vehicle pollution as it reconsiders  
9 the recent attack on clean car standards.

10 These standards will continue to promote  
11 innovation throughout the automotive industry and will  
12 ensure that the U.S. remains an industry leader. These  
13 standards have already gone through a rigorous  
14 technical review process which found that auto  
15 manufacturers have the technology to meet the  
16 standards.

17 I urge you to keep those standards as originally  
18 designed to ensure the greatest reduction in oil use  
19 and global warming emissions.

20 I'm here because I'm concerned about climate  
21 change. The latest IPCC report, the Intergovernmental  
22 Panel on Climate Change, the first part of the sixth

1 assessment was recently released, and the assessment  
2 details in stark and clear language that climate change  
3 is widespread, rapid, and intensifying. It is here, it  
4 is now, it is us.

5 The assessment detailed that warming will increase  
6 over the next three decades because nations have  
7 delayed curbing fossil fuel emissions for so long. In  
8 almost all emissions scenarios contained in the latest  
9 assessment, global warming is expected to hit 1.5  
10 degrees C in the early 2030s. That is so soon.

11 The global temperature average has already risen  
12 one degree C or about two degrees Fahrenheit since the  
13 Industrial Revolution, and with that two degrees of  
14 additional warming we've had recordbreaking heat waves,  
15 California's ever-increasing and intense wildfire  
16 season, Australia fires, China flooding. I could go on  
17 and on.

18 Here in California, I have already had to flee my  
19 home not knowing if I would be able to return due to  
20 wildfire. Over 30,000 Californians right now are  
21 evacuated from their home and some of them won't have a  
22 home to return to and the windy season hasn't even

1 begun yet.

2 I've had several friends lose homes and had their  
3 places of employment burn down, yet the warming will  
4 increase, so will the fires, flood, and drought. We  
5 have a choice, you have a choice. We have a window of  
6 opportunity to avoid things getting worse. The slower  
7 we act, the worse the consequences will be, and the  
8 faster we act, the less severe the consequences will  
9 be.

10 Transportation is the largest source of carbon  
11 emissions in the United States and it is critical that  
12 we both make our gasoline-powered cars and trucks more  
13 efficient and we must shift rapidly to electric  
14 vehicles.

15 Not only will setting the strongest standards  
16 possible help with climate change, but they will also  
17 help clean the air. The environmental justice concerns  
18 of this are immense. Our communities of color suffer  
19 from higher rates of asthma and respiratory disease.

20 Once again, I urge this Administration to set the  
21 strongest standards possible because they are working.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We have

1 no time to waste.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 Before we proceed with Speaker Block 5, we would  
4 like to invite anyone who may have been skipped on the  
5 list of Speaker Block 4 to raise their hand and we  
6 would be happy to promote the so they can make their  
7 testimony at this time.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. THOMPSON: Just another quick reminder that if  
10 you are from Speaker Block 4, we are inviting you to  
11 raise your hand at this time. We would also like to  
12 provide a quick reminder that if you have called in,  
13 you can raise your hand by dialing Star 9.

14 If you are having technical difficulties, we would  
15 encourage you to e-mail [public\\_hearing@abtassoci.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoci.com) or  
16 call 919-294-7712.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will proceed with the  
19 next available speaker on Speaker Block 5.

20 As a quick note, we will be going through the  
21 speakers who are currently listed as attendees from  
22 Speaker Block 5 until 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

1           The next speaker will be Mark Chun. You may now  
2 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
3 the record.

4           MR. CHUN: Good morning. This is Mark Chun from  
5 Hawaii. I'm Past President of USC Marshall School of  
6 Business Alumni.

7           Today, I'm testifying to urge the EPA to adopt  
8 Alternative Number 2.

9           I followed the journey of EPA adoption since 2010  
10 and, unfortunately, only justified my purchase this  
11 year. The primary two reasons are economics and range  
12 anxiety. This tells a story about economics.

13           Alternative 2 drives customers to make decisions  
14 not only for lofty global warming aspirations but, more  
15 importantly, the basic pocketbook. Federal plus state  
16 incentives can level the playing field against nice  
17 cars plus provide gateways to the every-day low-to-  
18 middle-income families.

19           For example, California provides up to 2,500 on  
20 used EVs to qualified households. For myself, I was  
21 happy with my former Lexus and Acura cars, but the  
22 manufacturers dragged their feet and only went hybrid



1 which still requires traditional high maintenance, i.e.  
2 gas, oil, transmission, tune-up, fan belt, expenses.  
3 Automakers will only seek loopholes to standards to  
4 maximize profits from legacy vehicle services.

5 We need to enforce higher standards to address  
6 immediate global warming concerns as soon as possible.

7 Let's talk about range anxiety. The majority of  
8 households work within a 15-to-30-minutes radius from  
9 home. Providing economic incentives for not only new  
10 but used CPO EVs would expedite adoption.

11 I just purchased just this year after 12 years of  
12 following this with my used 2017 Tesla which as an  
13 initial range of 240, now 230, which is more than  
14 enough to circle the island. Most people in the  
15 California and different neighborhoods also have that  
16 same ability to do their daily stuff within that 35.

17 In conclusion, there's 14 Asian and European  
18 countries that have ice bands ranging from the Year  
19 2025 to 2050 with an average of 2034 as the target  
20 date.

21 Let's do all we can to incentivize average Joe  
22 households by making EVs economical and easy to get

1 started.

2 Next, we need to mandate the automakers to do the  
3 right thing for our environment by legislating a  
4 pathway to compliance and not leave it to their own  
5 means.

6 Finally, let's ensure USA takes the leading role  
7 amongst the global community by setting the bar to  
8 ensure success.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

11 The next speaker will be William Barrett. You may  
12 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
13 for the record.

14 MR. BARRETT: Thank you.

15 My name is Will Barrett. I'm the Senior Director  
16 of Clean Air Advocacy with the American Lung  
17 Association, based in Sacramento, California.

18 I'm pleased to be speaking to you today and to be  
19 following a long list of supporters of setting the  
20 strongest possible light-duty greenhouse gas emissions  
21 standards.

22 We believe this provision is a vital response to

1 the alarming public health risks posed by climate  
2 change in every corner of our nation and especially in  
3 communities already most at risk due to poor air  
4 quality.

5 The climate crisis is on full display today. Like  
6 many Americans, Californians have faced extreme heat  
7 warnings, air quality alerts, and red flag warnings for  
8 wildfire risk.

9 As I speak to you today, EPA's Air Now website  
10 shows very unhealthy and even hazardous air quality  
11 impacting residents of multiple states due to Western  
12 wildfires. Lives have been lost, homes have been lost,  
13 entire communities have been lost.

14 With each extreme event, we become more acutely  
15 aware of and concerned by the many connections between  
16 climate change and public health.

17 Given that the transportation sector is the  
18 leading source of greenhouse gas emissions, U.S. EPA  
19 must act this year to adopt and finalize standards  
20 through 2026 that go beyond previous standards and  
21 deliver real-world emission reductions. This is  
22 necessary in order to reflect the urgency of our

1 climate crisis and to set a course for the rapid  
2 transition away from combustion technologies.

3 We call on you as EPA to use all the tools  
4 available to respond to this crisis and these standards  
5 really represent one of the most powerful levers  
6 available.

7 The American Lung Association urges the U.S. EPA  
8 to build off of and really to go beyond the foundation  
9 set by the 2012 standards to really at a minimum  
10 achieve the stringency outlined in Alternative 2.

11 We call on U.S. EPA to ensure that crediting and  
12 other loopholes are not allowed to reduce the emission  
13 reductions or real-world benefits of the final rules.

14 Alternative 2 could provide the strongest  
15 foundation for more stringent rules to follow, would  
16 usher in greater reductions in harmful pollutants,  
17 yield health and societal benefits that EPA states will  
18 far exceed the costs, and really can accelerate the  
19 pathway to zero emission technologies that is urgently  
20 needed to protect our health and our climate.

21 We call on U.S. EPA to set the standards at least  
22 to the level outlined in Alternative 2 and to ensure

1 that these stringency levels are achieved in the real  
2 world.

3 U.S. EPA should also move quickly to establish  
4 even more stringent next round standards that set the  
5 path to full electrification in the light-duty sector  
6 as well as to begin the work of standards to accelerate  
7 the growing medium- and heavy-duty zero emission  
8 vehicle segments.

9 These actions support cleaner air, healthier  
10 climate, and relief for communities most burdened by  
11 both on-road transportation sources and fossil fuel  
12 infrastructure that threatens health on a daily basis.

13 Thank you for your time and attention and for  
14 considering our perspectives.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

16 As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you will  
17 receive a notification on your screen that you are  
18 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
19 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
20 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
21 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
22 encourage you to do.

1           Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
2 their phones when called to testify.

3           If you're having technical difficulties, please  
4 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
5 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
6 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
7 send an e-mail with your name and phone number to  
8 [public\\_hearing@abt.assoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abt.assoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

9           The next speaker will be Patrice Tomcik. You may  
10 now unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
11 record.

12           (No response,)

13           MS. THOMPSON: To unmute, you will need to click  
14 the Unmute button on the lower left-hand side of your  
15 screen. There should be an icon shaped like a  
16 microphone that you can click on.

17           MS. TOMCIK: Hello. Can you hear me?

18           MS. THOMPSON: Yes, we can hear you.

19           MS. TOMCIK: I am so sorry. Thank you.

20           Hello and my name is Patrice Tomcik, and thank you  
21 for this opportunity to testify today. I am the  
22 National Field Manager for Moms Clean Air Force, an

1 organization of over one million moms and dads united  
2 to protect our children's health from air pollution and  
3 climate change.

4 I live in the town of Gibsonia located in  
5 Southwestern Pennsylvania with my husband and two  
6 children where vehicle pollution degrades our air  
7 quality and contributes to climate change and today I'm  
8 asking the EPA to finalize the strongest possible  
9 greenhouse gas emissions standards for light-duty  
10 vehicles in order to protect children's health in the  
11 future.

12 Today was the first day of school for my two sons.  
13 Although I am thankful to have in-person classes again,  
14 I'm also anxious about sending my sons back to school,  
15 too. My children's schools, they are located less than  
16 500 feet from the heavy trafficked state road of 228.

17 Studies have shown that the highest daytime  
18 exposures of traffic pollution are within 500 feet of a  
19 busy road. On an average day, at least 10,000 vehicles  
20 and 500 light-duty trucks travel this heavily-congested  
21 roadway.

22 Closing school windows and doors can help lessen

1 the traffic pollutant exposures but the reality is, is  
2 that fine particles, ultrafine particles, gases, and  
3 vapors are able to readily penetrate the indoors where  
4 they can be breathed in by very young lungs.

5 In the evening, my kids attend outdoor two-hour  
6 sports practices and games at the school sports complex  
7 located near the roadway. This is the environment my  
8 children have been exposed to since kindergarten and  
9 now through their high school years.

10 Unfortunately, my story is not unique since many  
11 schools across the nation are built near busy roadways  
12 because the land is cheap. I know that children are  
13 especially impacted by pollution since their lungs and  
14 brains are still developing until early adulthood.

15 Toxic air pollution exposures have deleterious  
16 effects that can last a lifetime. I'm very worried  
17 about what my children are breathing into their lungs  
18 every day. My youngest son is a cancer survivor and is  
19 immune-compromised.

20 As a mother, I try to make his home environment as  
21 healthy as possible, but I know that I can't control  
22 the air my son breathes and depend on the Administrator



1 and EPA to do your jobs.

2 Please finalize the strongest possible climate  
3 pollution limits on cars and light trucks to help  
4 protect our children's health and futures.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

7 The next speaker will be James Gallagher. James,  
8 you may unmute and please state your and affiliation  
9 for the record.

10 MR. GALLAGHER: (Inaudible.)

11 MS. THOMPSON: James, I do apologize for  
12 interrupting you. Your volume is very, very low. You  
13 may need to sit a little bit closer to the microphone  
14 if at all possible. My apologies.

15 MR. GALLAGHER: Interesting. Is this any better?

16 MS. THOMPSON: Much better.

17 MR. GALLAGHER: Okay. I'll try to swallow the  
18 computer.

19 As I said, I'm James A. Gallagher. I'm here as a  
20 public citizen with a deep interest in the automotive  
21 industry. I was born and raised in Detroit.

22 After obtaining a Bachelor and Master of

1 Engineering degrees from the University of Detroit in  
2 1968, I worked as an engineering (inaudible) at Ford  
3 Motor Engineering in the summer of 1965 and then as an  
4 engineer and manager at the National Security Agency  
5 for 52 years, 35+ as a federal employee including  
6 receiving the NSA Meritorious Civilian Service Award,  
7 and 16+ years as an engineering support contractor.

8 I strongly support this Administration's swift  
9 action on clean cars but urge the EPA to adopt their  
10 second alternative which would deliver greater savings  
11 to consumers and eliminate unnecessary loopholes for  
12 automakers.

13 I do not like federal regulations, but I have seen  
14 how it has been necessary to improve the safety of  
15 automobiles and reduce the pollution they create. My  
16 first car --

17 MS. THOMPSON: I'm sorry to interrupt again. It  
18 appears that the audio is still quite difficult to hear  
19 for our panel. I'm not sure if there's a way to pull  
20 the computer perhaps a little bit closer.

21 MR. GALLGHER: I guess the microphone on this is  
22 somewhere on the top -- at the bottom of the screen.

1 So is this any better?

2 MS. THOMPSON: It is. Again, my apologies.

3 MR. GALLAGHER: That's quite all right. I haven't  
4 done this before.

5 Let's see. As I said, I grew up in Detroit, born  
6 and raised there, obtained my Bachelor's and Master's  
7 degrees from the University of Detroit in 1968.

8 I worked as an engineering student assistant at  
9 Ford Motor Engineering in the summer of 1965 and then  
10 as an engineering manager of the National Security  
11 Agency for 52 years, 35+ of them as a federal employee,  
12 including receiving the NSA Meritorious Service Award,  
13 and the remaining 16+ years as an engineering support  
14 contractor.

15 I do support the Administration's swift action on  
16 clean cars but urge the EPA to adopt their second  
17 alternative which would deliver greater savings to  
18 consumers, such as me, and eliminate unnecessary  
19 loopholes for automakers.

20 I do not like federal regulations but I have seen  
21 how it has been necessary to improve the safety of  
22 automobiles and reduce the pollution they create. My

1 first car, a used 1957 Lincoln, weighed 5,600 pounds  
2 and got 10 to 15 miles per gallon of gasoline. My  
3 current car, a 2014 Lincoln MKZ Hybrid Sedan, weighs  
4 far less, is far safer, and gets 40 to 45 miles per  
5 gallon of gasoline. Regulation has had a positive  
6 effect.

7 I watched the escalating extreme climate events,  
8 such as wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat, in the  
9 Northwest where my brother Gary has had to evacuate his  
10 home from the fires and my brother Tom died July 15th  
11 of lung cancer. He never smoked.

12 Meanwhile, we have tornadoes, hurricanes, and  
13 extreme flooding throughout our country and throughout  
14 the world. We have to change our ways but there are  
15 rich and powerful industries that do not want to change  
16 the status quo.

17 I value our industry. My father spent his entire  
18 working life at Ford Motor Company. He was a naval  
19 officer in the Pacific during World War II. He retired  
20 in 1980 as the General Counsel of Purchasing and was  
21 proud of his time at Ford which provided the income to  
22 feed, clothe, house, and educate all eight of his

1 children. I hope industry will continue to play that  
2 valuable role.

3 Once again, I urge this Administration to set the  
4 strongest possible standards because they work. We  
5 should be making our cars and light-duty trucks even  
6 cleaner and more efficient.

7 I urge you to reinstate the earlier federal  
8 standards with your Alternative 2 and set even stronger  
9 ones for 2030, plus ensure there are no loopholes for  
10 automakers to get around these standards.

11 Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

12 MR. OLECHIW: Mr. Gallagher, will you be  
13 submitting your comments in written form, also?

14 MR. GALLAGHER: As soon as I figure out how to do  
15 that.

16 MR. OLECHIW: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

17 MR. GALLAGHER: You're welcome.

18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

19 The next speaker will be Lucia Valentine. Lucia,  
20 you may now unmute and please state your name and  
21 affiliation for the record.

22 MS. VALENTINE: Hello. My name is Lucia

1 Valentine, and I am the West Virginia Organizer with  
2 Moms Clean Air Force, and thank you for the opportunity  
3 to testify today.

4 I'm from Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and have  
5 lived in the Mountain State my whole life. My passion  
6 work is dedicated to the intersection of advocacy,  
7 environmental justice, and children's health.

8 Growing up on the bank of the Potomac River, I  
9 experienced exacerbated climate disasters, such as  
10 flooding, due to the negative impacts that greenhouse  
11 gases have on our environment. This is in major part  
12 due to the lack of clean vehicle standards.

13 The transportation sector is the largest source of  
14 carbon pollution in the U.S. and the EPA must set the  
15 strongest possible federal clean car standards  
16 throughout 2026, avoiding loopholes and putting  
17 automakers on track to meet ambitious pollution  
18 reduction goals.

19 The pollution from cars not only causes climate  
20 change but it also (audio glitch) the future of our  
21 children, families, and communities all across our  
22 beautiful state of West Virginia.

1           The EPA proposal includes several options for how  
2 much and how quickly to limit climate pollution from  
3 cars and light trucks. Preferred alternative  
4 identified by EPA is not the strongest option and  
5 includes some loopholes to automakers that may  
6 undermine other pollution reduction targets.

7           Option Number 2 would put 400,000 extra vehicles  
8 on the road by 2026 and result in 130 million metric  
9 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. In order to set us  
10 on the path to 100 percent zero emissions by 2035, the  
11 near-term standards for climate pollution must be as  
12 strong as possible.

13           So thank you for your time to testify today.

14           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

15           The next speaker will be Mark Rose. Mark, you may  
16 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
17 for the record.

18           MR. ROSE: Thank you for this opportunity to  
19 comment.

20           My name is Mark Rose, and I'm the Sierra Nevada  
21 Program Manager for National Parks Conservation  
22 Association, America's leading voice to protect and

1 preserve our national parks.

2 I'm testifying today because the dual threats of  
3 air pollution and climate change caused by light-duty  
4 vehicles pose some of the greatest challenges to our  
5 national parks and communities.

6 Nearly all 423 national park units are now at risk  
7 due to climate change. Climate impacts from vehicle  
8 greenhouse gases is leading to runaway heat waves,  
9 droughts, sea level rise, coastal flooding, and the  
10 Modaco wildfires whose smoke I've been breathing in for  
11 weeks.

12 If we do not act quickly, we may lose some of our  
13 national parks namesake features, such as the glaciers  
14 in Glacier National Park, the Joshua Trees in Joshua  
15 Tree National Park, and the Sequoias in nearby Sequoia  
16 National Park.

17 Vehicle air pollution also severely limits  
18 visibility in many national parks with haze cutting  
19 down on as many as 90 miles average visibility in  
20 places like Kings Canyon.

21 It also significantly harms the health and well-  
22 being of park visitors, wildlife, and treasured



1 ecosystems.

2 Beyond my role at NPCA, I also recently spent  
3 numerous years living in Fresno and working on air  
4 quality issues in California's San Joaquin Valley, one  
5 of the most polluted regions in the nation for MPM 2.5  
6 and ozone pollution, the majority of which comes from  
7 vehicles.

8 I have seen firsthand the impacts of vehicle  
9 pollution on the health of my neighbors and friends.  
10 We must do more to protect these citizens, especially  
11 persons of color and low-income individuals living in  
12 the many environmental justice communities across the  
13 nation who are most impacted by air pollution and  
14 climate instability.

15 While I thank the Administration for acting  
16 quickly to restore the so-called California Waiver and  
17 update these standards, the proposal EPA has put forth,  
18 however, does not go far enough.

19 To meet our national climate goals, protect our  
20 communities, and preserve our beloved public lands for  
21 generations to come, NPCA firmly believes we must move  
22 forward with the strongest possible standards. Such

1 standards should achieve no less than the total tonnage  
2 of greenhouse gas emission reductions that would have  
3 been achieved under the previous Obama-era rules by  
4 2025.

5 We further ask EPA not to include any unnecessary  
6 loopholes or credits that allow manufacturers to avoid  
7 real-world reductions.

8 Alternative 2 is a good starting point, but I  
9 strongly urge you to go even further.

10 As reported in Bloomberg News today, this position  
11 appears to also be shared by members of the Biden  
12 Administration who have expressed concern that EPA's  
13 proposed alternative does not go far enough.

14 According to the recent IPCC Code Red for Humanity  
15 Report, we are running out of time to correct course.  
16 With the transportation sector becoming the largest  
17 emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation and passenger  
18 vehicles accounting for the vast majority of those  
19 emissions, we must do more to set America on a path  
20 towards achieving 100 percent zero emission vehicle  
21 sales by no longer than 2035.

22 Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and I

1 ask that you please strengthen your proposal.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 At this time, we will begin a brief recess. EPA,  
4 when would you like to reconvene?

5 MR. OLECHIW: We will take a recess from half past  
6 the hour till 15 minutes to the hour, so on the East  
7 Coast that would be 3:30 until 3:45, and I just want to  
8 take this opportunity to thank all of this afternoon's  
9 testifiers and speakers. We very much appreciate the  
10 input on the proposed rule. So we'll reconvene at 15  
11 minutes to the hour.

12 Thank you.

13 (Recess.)

14 MS. THOMPSON: Greetings, everyone.

15 This is Kayla Thompson from Abt Associates, EPA's  
16 contractor.

17 It is currently 3:45 p.m. Eastern Time, and we are  
18 now rejoining EPA's Public Hearing about the Revised  
19 2023 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse  
20 Gas Emissions Standards Proposal.

21 As a reminder, if you are speaking today, you will  
22 receive a notification on your screen that you are

1 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
2 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
3 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
4 will also allow you to turn on your camera and we  
5 encourage you to do so.

6 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
7 their phones when called to testify.

8 If you are having any technical difficulties,  
9 please send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or  
10 call 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak  
11 but you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th,  
12 please send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or  
13 call 919-294-7712.

14 The expecting speaking order is displayed on the  
15 screen. I will be introducing each speaker in turn.

16 The first speaker will be Jennifer Cantley.

17 EPA, are you ready to proceed?

18 MR. OLECHIW: Yes, we are ready to proceed. Thank  
19 you, Kayla.

20 MS. THOMPSON: Great. Jennifer, as a reminder,  
21 you will need to accept the invitation to be made a  
22 panelist in order to unmute today. When you are ready,

1 please unmute and state your name and affiliation for  
2 the record.

3 MS. CANTLEY: Can you hear me?

4 MS. THOMPSON: We can.

5 MS. CANTLEY: Okay. Good afternoon.

6 My name is Jennifer Cantley. Thank you for the  
7 opportunity to testify. I'm an Organizer with Moms  
8 Clean Air Force.

9 I'm a born and raised Nevadan who currently lives  
10 in the state's capitol Carson City with my family and  
11 my two children who are asthmatic along with my third  
12 son and my fiancé.

13 We are all survivors of COVID and I am  
14 unfortunately a long-hauler who suffers with mild COPD,  
15 inflammation around my heart, and pseudo-tumor cerebri  
16 due to the virus which leads me to why I am a supporter  
17 of the Administration's proposal to the regulatory  
18 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this  
19 country.

20 In Nevada, we are currently being pounded by  
21 wildfire smoke in which the City of Reno just reported  
22 the 10 worst air quality days in Reno's history, all

1 being in the last 11 months. Reno is only a 20-minute  
2 drive from my house, and I'm sure Carson City would  
3 have similar air quality reports if we had stronger air  
4 departments like the big city does versus the rural  
5 communities, especially when we see that this year's  
6 American Lung Association's report with the rural  
7 county that I grew up in, Douglas County, having more  
8 red air days than Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada.

9 This is because of the wildfire smoke and the  
10 record high heat we're having. When you combine the  
11 two together, it makes families, such as mine, hard to  
12 want to get out of bed some days.

13 My family is a low-income family who cannot afford  
14 central air conditioning and when we have these record  
15 high heats, combining with the wildfire smoke at this  
16 time, we have to turn off our swamp cooler which brings  
17 up the heat in our house, then triggers our breathing  
18 issues, which then makes more asthma attacks. This  
19 then tops it off, we have orange ozone days.

20 We need your support. Now in Nevada, heat and  
21 wildfire smoke are becoming a yearly occasion. It's no  
22 longer from June to September. The vehicle pollution

1 has always been a Number 1 part of our air pollution.  
2 This is why the EPA must make stronger possible federal  
3 air standards for 2026, avoiding the loopholes and  
4 putting automakers on track to meet ambitious  
5 pollution-reducing vehicles.

6 When I say avoiding loopholes, this is another  
7 important issue for Nevadans as we hold 25 percent of  
8 the world's lithium for the EV vehicles that will be  
9 producing the batteries for these EV cars.

10 The Federal Government must hold these companies  
11 to the highest standards, especially for foreign  
12 companies coming to rural communities. Low-income  
13 families, especially Native communities, 13 percent of  
14 Indigenous children, have asthma attacks compared to  
15 8.6 percent of the children of non-Indigenous descent.

16 A lithium site currently in Nevada could produce  
17 5,800 tons of sulfuric acid a day towards the Piute  
18 Shoshone Territory in Nevada. This is why we need to  
19 make the strongest possible national greenhouse  
20 emission standards for passenger cars and light trucks  
21 through Model Years of 2026.

22 Thank you.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

2 The next speaker will be Karen Stein. As a  
3 reminder, you will need to accept the invitation to  
4 become a panelist in order to unmute.

5 MS. STEIN: Thank you, and let me just minimize my  
6 screen so I can read my notes.

7 Good afternoon. I'm Karen Stein. I live in Rural  
8 Iowa, and I am the Iowa Organizer for Moms Clean Air  
9 Force as well as its Eco Madres Program, which  
10 addresses the disproportionate effects of air pollution  
11 and the climate crisis on Latino and Indigenous  
12 communities.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor  
14 of the Revised 2023 and Later Year Light-Duty Vehicle  
15 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards.

16 Here in Iowa, my primary place of residence since  
17 I arrived from Latin America in 1980, we still have not  
18 recovered from the horrific torrential storm of a year  
19 ago which killed four people and caused over \$1 billion  
20 in damages.

21 We lost seven million trees in Iowa, four million  
22 of them in urban areas. I had known over 200 of those



1 trees for 40 years. My daughters have climbed several  
2 of them while growing up and now two of the three  
3 daughters have decided not to have children because of  
4 what they see as happening to our climate.

5 Iowa has lost shade and wildlife habitat for  
6 decades to come. This year, we have endured an  
7 extremely hot summer. People's electric bills due to  
8 air conditioning usage are high and this is especially  
9 difficult for communities in low-wealth neighborhoods.

10 Iowa's skies have been hazy most of the summer due  
11 to the wildfires in the Western United States and I am  
12 experiencing breathing difficulties for the very first  
13 time in my life. I even went to get tested for COVID  
14 because of severe persistent cough episodes which  
15 turned out to be caused by particulate matter in the  
16 air.

17 I know children with asthma in the Latino  
18 communities in Iowa who have hardly been able to play  
19 outdoors this summer due to the haze and the heat and  
20 they badly needed to be able to play in the midst of  
21 this pandemic.

22 Allow me to switch to Spanish before concluding in

1 English. (Speaking Spanish.) I said that all of what  
2 I'm describing is due to the climate crisis which we're  
3 experiencing, which is made worse by vehicular  
4 pollution and many times Latino communities are not  
5 aware of the causes and don't have access to the tools  
6 that would allow them to take action while at the same  
7 time they are being among the most affected by climate  
8 change and pollution.

9 With my words in Spanish, I wish to underscore  
10 that limiting pollution from dirty vehicles is  
11 essential in achieving environmental justice. The EPA  
12 must set the strongest possible federal clean car  
13 standards and put automakers on track to meet the  
14 pollution reduction goals that the Intergovernmental  
15 Panel on Climate Change tells us we must achieve.

16 Gracias, thanks.

17 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

18 The next speaker is Barry Morse. Barry, we do not  
19 currently have you listed among the list of attendees.  
20 However, if you have joined using a different name, we  
21 would invite you to raise your hand at this time, and  
22 if you have called in you may dial Star 9 on your phone

1 in order to raise your hand.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. THOMPSON: We will move to the next speaker on  
4 our list.

5 The next speaker is Debi Chernak. Debi, we also  
6 do not see you as being currently listed among the  
7 attendees. However, if you have joined under a  
8 different name, we would ask that you please raise your  
9 hand at this time, and if you have called in to the  
10 meeting today you can raise your hand by dialing Star  
11 9.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. THOMPSON: We will move to the next speaker on  
14 our list.

15 The next speaker will be Stephanie Klein.  
16 Stephanie, when you're ready, please unmute and state  
17 your name and affiliation for the record.

18 MS. KLEIN: My name is Stephanie Klein, and I am  
19 with Moms Clean Air Force.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I  
21 am the Washington, D.C., Field Organizer for Moms Clean  
22 Air Force. I'm a mom and a resident of the District of

1 Columbia.

2 I'm an environmental scientist by training and was  
3 a career employee of this agency for 14 years. As  
4 such, I have firsthand knowledge of the importance of  
5 EPA's role in protecting the public from harmful levels  
6 of air pollution and I understand that agency staff do  
7 not take this responsibility lightly.

8 I want to thank you for holding this hearing today  
9 and giving members of the public like me a chance to  
10 give input. I strongly support EPA's proposal to  
11 strengthen federal greenhouse gas emissions standards  
12 for passenger cars and light trucks for Model Years  
13 2023 to 2026.

14 Cleaning up vehicle pollution is one of the most  
15 important things we can do to clean up our air and  
16 fight climate change.

17 Washington, D.C., has one of the highest ground  
18 level ozone pollution rates in the country. The  
19 American Lung Association grades our city at an F in  
20 its State of the Air Ozone Pollution Ratings. One in  
21 10 kids in D.C. suffers from asthma which is  
22 exacerbated by ground level ozone pollution, and in

1 some parts of the city, particularly our low-wealth and  
2 BIPOC communities, the childhood asthma rate is as high  
3 as one in three.

4 Cars are one of the major sources of ground level  
5 ozone pollution and our kids are living with the  
6 impacts.

7 We also know that cars are one of our major  
8 sources of greenhouse gases. Ground transportation  
9 accounts for 22 percent of our climate pollution here.

10 Like communities across the country, Washington,  
11 D.C., is experiencing the effects of climate change  
12 today. We are living through record-breaking heat  
13 waves, snowstorms, and floods caused by rising sea  
14 levels and heavy rain events.

15 Our famous cherry blossoms are even blooming  
16 earlier as the planet warms.

17 Part of my job as an organizer is to speak with  
18 members of my community about the causes and health  
19 impacts of air pollution locally. When I talk to kids,  
20 while they typically do not understand the process by  
21 which cars burn gasoline to make energy, they do grasp  
22 the basic concept of tailpipe pollution, and the

1 reaction is always, well, we need to make cars run as  
2 cleanly as possible, and they're right.

3 EPA has an important job in setting pollution  
4 limits for cars, but we must also go further to address  
5 the climate crisis by moving decisively to zero  
6 pollution vehicles. In order to set us on the path to  
7 100 percent zero emissions new vehicles by 2035, the  
8 near-term standards for climate pollution must be as  
9 strong as possible.

10 EPA's proposal includes several options for how  
11 much and how quickly to limit climate pollution from  
12 cars and light trucks.

13 On behalf of Moms Clean Air Force's more than  
14 3,000 members in Washington, D.C., I urge EPA to  
15 finalize the strongest option possible.

16 Thank you for your time today.

17 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

18 The next speaker will be Michelle Uberuaga. It  
19 appears Michelle is not currently listed as an  
20 attendee. However, if you have joined using a  
21 different name, we would encourage you to raise your  
22 hand at this time, and it seems like we have an

1 individual who is raising their hand. So I will  
2 promote them to panelist at this time.

3 MS. UBERUAGA: Thank you so much. Apologize. I  
4 can't change my name and this is my work account, but  
5 thank you so much for your time today and I'm grateful  
6 for your work at EPA. You have an incredibly important  
7 job and a laudable mission to protect human health and  
8 the environment. So thank you.

9 My name's Michelle Uberuaga, and I am the mother  
10 of three and a member of Moms Clean Air Force. I live  
11 on Apsaroka land in Southwest Montana, and I work full-  
12 time running a community-based conservation group here  
13 in Yellowstone Northern Gateway. That's my name there,  
14 the Park County Environmental Council.

15 I'm testifying today to support the EPA's  
16 proposal. This proposal is a step in the right  
17 direction to address the urgent climate emergency that  
18 we are living in right now.

19 As many speakers have already stated, we are at a  
20 crucial tipping point. Every decision you make to  
21 reduce pollution today matters, and I really want you  
22 to understand the urgency of this work to my family and

1 to so many other Montana families. Our kids are  
2 watching and they're worried.

3 We've spent the past two months in Montana under  
4 hazy and smoke-filled skies. We can't play outside.  
5 We can't fish because of the heat-related closures on  
6 our rivers. My kids are still pretty young, but they  
7 know that something is not right and they're worried.

8 Montana's drought is killing farmers. Climate  
9 change is impacting every part of our lives, our  
10 economy, and our way of life, and our kids are counting  
11 on you to take action to protect their future.

12 So for these reasons, I urge the EPA to set the  
13 strongest possible federal clean car standards. We  
14 need to keep U.S. automakers on track to meet ambitious  
15 pollution reduction goals as soon as possible.

16 I'm also testifying because my family, like many  
17 Montana families, is impacted from air pollution from  
18 cars and trucks. Livingston is a small town in a rural  
19 county on the Northern edge of Yellowstone National  
20 Park, and you might imagine that we have pretty good  
21 air quality, but like every other place, we experience  
22 local pollution from vehicles. It's inescapable.



1           In fact, pollution from vehicles can create  
2 serious air quality concerns even in Yellowstone  
3 National Park where cars often get lined up back-to-  
4 back sometimes for miles. The air pollution when that  
5 happens is visible as it sits in the air in remote  
6 river valleys.

7           In our little town, we experience pollution from  
8 vehicles regularly. Livingston, like many towns, sits  
9 right off I-90. When the freeway closes for bad  
10 weather, heavy truck traffic is rerouted right through  
11 our downtown, right down Main Street, past our  
12 elementary school. Sometimes traffic gets backed up  
13 for several miles, semis, cars, trucks, slowly inc  
14 through town, past schools, restaurants, and sidewalks.

15           My kids are also personally impacted from  
16 pollution from vehicles that idle at their schools.  
17 Like many places, parents idle their cars during pickup  
18 and drop-off which happens on the playground. It's  
19 alarming to see our playground flanked on all sides by  
20 idling cars and air pollution.

21           We can and we must do better for our kids and for  
22 our communities. An estimated six million children

1 under 18 suffer from asthma. My son has three kids on  
2 his soccer team that have asthma. My husband is the  
3 coach and he has to make judgment calls about whether  
4 it's safe to practice or play games. Parents should  
5 not be making those decisions.

6 This summer, our local hardware store teamed up  
7 with our city government to give out free DIY air  
8 filters, boxed fans with filters for homes this summer.  
9 Many families, like mine, don't have air conditioning.  
10 With extreme heat and smoke, we have very few options  
11 to protect our families.

12 We need your help. Local families and communities  
13 can work together to protect themselves from dangerous  
14 pollution, but we shouldn't have to, and many  
15 especially vulnerable communities just don't have the  
16 resources or time. We need your leadership to protect  
17 vulnerable children across our country from air  
18 pollution and climate change,

19 Strengthening car standards is a simple step and  
20 we can and must continue to do more to protect  
21 communities from air pollution and climate change.

22 I want my kids to know that we did everything we

1 could to protect their future.

2 Thank you so much for your time and for your  
3 consideration today.

4 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

5 The next speaker will be Ann Mesnikoff. You may  
6 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
7 for the record.

8 MS. MESNIKOFF: Hi. My name is Ann Mesnikoff.  
9 I'm the Federal Legislative Director for the  
10 Environmental Law and Policy Center. ELPC is the  
11 Midwest's leading public interest, environmental, and  
12 legal advocacy organization. We appreciate the  
13 opportunity to testify today.

14 It is critical to remember that the necessity for  
15 this NPRM and this hearing is because the auto  
16 industry, which agreed to the 2012 program, including  
17 letters of commitment, lost no time in pushing the  
18 Trump Administration to undermine it. As a result, we  
19 have lost years of emissions reductions as the urgency  
20 for action mounts daily.

21 I have three brief points to make today. First,  
22 we need to act with urgency. The Six IPCC Report makes

1 clear both the human causes of climate change and its  
2 devastating impact.

3 EPA's reminder in the NPRM that greenhouse gases  
4 endanger public health and welfare is important, but  
5 EPA fails to capture the scope of the tragic impacts we  
6 are seeing almost daily across the U.S. and around the  
7 world and the absolute urgency of strong standards.

8 ELPC is specifically concerned about the threat  
9 climate change poses to the Midwest and the Great Lakes  
10 which contain 21 percent of the world's freshwater  
11 supply and provide drinking water for over 42 million  
12 people.

13 In 2019, ELPC sponsored a report by leading  
14 Midwest climate experts and scientists that detailed  
15 the harmful impacts of climate change on the Great  
16 Lakes and our region.

17 The change in climate brings increased storm  
18 intensity, changes in water temperatures, flooding,  
19 runoff, and algal growth, all presenting a significant  
20 increasing threat to the Great Lakes.

21 In the region, the boundary waters has been  
22 evacuated due to the threats of wildfire and costly

1 weather-related disasters, like the recent devastating  
2 flooding in Detroit, have been linked to climate  
3 change.

4 Second, EPA must issue strong technology-forcing  
5 standards for cars and light trucks. EPA itself notes  
6 that addressing the climate crisis will require  
7 substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from  
8 the transportation sector and that we are in a pivotal  
9 moment.

10 We agree, and we appreciate that EPA is using its  
11 authority under the Clean Act to begin with Model Year  
12 2023 and act separately from NHTSA, but the climate  
13 crisis can leave no doubt that EPA must adopt  
14 Alternative 2 with at least the 10 grams per mile  
15 increase in stringency for Model Year 2026.

16 EPA acknowledges that automakers were already  
17 planning for stronger standards and they should not be  
18 rewarded with anything less than Alternative 2.

19 It is, however, hard to decipher how the veritable  
20 smorgasbord of so-called flexibilities undermines the  
21 top line targets EPA sets out and therefore the  
22 benefits.

1 Flexibilities allow automakers to stall gasoline  
2 vehicle improvements and fail to significantly boost  
3 the electric vehicle market given automakers already  
4 announced plans.

5 Light truck vehicles with dismal fuel economy  
6 dominate the market today. The market is now 50/50 as  
7 EPA assumes. These vehicles will be on the road  
8 guzzling gas and spewing climate pollution well beyond  
9 2030. Each year that automakers can exploit  
10 flexibilities and ship out gas-guzzling trucks with  
11 little or no change undermines our ability to mitigate  
12 the climate crisis. EPA must shut down this  
13 smorgasbord and strengthen Alternative 2 to meet the  
14 climate moment.

15 Third, a strong auto manufacturing base is  
16 critical to the economies and well-being of Great Lakes  
17 Midwest states where ELPC works. Past analysis by BGA  
18 and NRDC concluded that there were nearly 300,000 jobs  
19 in the advanced technology vehicle sector. Three  
20 states, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, top the list.

21 I appreciated the remarks this morning from Noah  
22 Howe from Ceres who called out the link between

1 stronger standards and innovation, job creation, and  
2 competitiveness, all of which are important in the  
3 states in the Midwest, the auto manufacturing base.

4 EPA makes clear in the NPRM that the proposed  
5 standards will be met with existing technology. Even  
6 Alternative 2, while stronger, will not spur innovation  
7 and fuel-saving technologies because loopholes will  
8 allow auto manufacturers to do more of the same with  
9 the climate paying the price.

10 In conclusion, EPA must strengthen and adopt  
11 Alternative 2 with at least the additional reduction in  
12 10 gram per mile for Model Year 2026 while closing  
13 loopholes.

14 EPA must act swiftly on setting standards for  
15 Model Year 2027 and beyond.

16 I will note from the story in Bloomberg News today  
17 that many of us, many, many folks testifying today are  
18 calling for stronger standards, and we share the same  
19 concerns as folks in the White House who urge for a  
20 stronger rule.

21 You have time to strengthen this program in the  
22 final standards. A safer climate depends on it.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

3 The next speaker is Maureen Dugan. Maureen, we do  
4 not currently have you listed on the list of attendees.  
5 However, if you have joined using a different name, we  
6 would invite you at this time to raise your hand and if  
7 you have called in to the meeting today, you can do so  
8 by dialing Star 9.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. THOMPSON: We will move on to the next  
11 speaker.

12 The next speaker will be Senator Marci Francisco.  
13 You may now unmute and please state your name and  
14 affiliation for the record.

15 SENATOR FRANCISCO: I'm Marci Francisco of  
16 Lawrence, Kansas. I'm a former Mayor of Lawrence and  
17 currently represent the Second District in the Kansas  
18 Senate. That district includes much of Lawrence and in  
19 Camden in Douglas County and almost all of Jefferson  
20 County.

21 My thanks to you, the EPA officials, for the  
22 opportunity to testify today in support of the EPA



1 solidifying strong greenhouse gas emissions standards  
2 for light-duty vehicles to further fuel efficiency of  
3 automobiles and curb pollution.

4 Many of my constituents have urged me to support  
5 measures that will be beneficial for the health and  
6 prosperity of our communities. I am testifying today  
7 because I'm aware that often it is the Federal  
8 Government that must take the lead in setting  
9 standards.

10 Both as a private citizen and an elected state  
11 Senator serving over 80,000 Kansans in Northeast  
12 Kansas, I believe that our state officials working with  
13 our Federal Government hold the responsibility to  
14 safely regulate air pollution for the shared public  
15 interest.

16 As has been testified to today, vehicle emissions  
17 not only constitute one of the largest sources of  
18 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States but cars  
19 and trucks also emit deadly air pollutants, such as PM  
20 2.5.

21 By strengthening pollution standards for passenger  
22 vehicles and light-duty trucks as proposed, it would

1 mean significant gains in both public health and our  
2 environment, all while providing consumers with  
3 opportunities for lower vehicle costs and economic  
4 savings.

5 As an elected representative, I believe stronger  
6 federal safeguards on vehicle emissions would benefit  
7 my constituents. Addressing vehicle pollution by  
8 strengthening vehicle efficiency and encouraging hybrid  
9 electric vehicle technology falls squarely in the EPA's  
10 mission.

11 Strengthened standards and a path to 60 percent  
12 vehicle emission reduction and a 50 percent electric  
13 vehicle fleet by 2030 should spur economic growth and  
14 public health protections.

15 Personally, I have been fortunate to be able to  
16 make choices to reduce my personal vehicle emissions.  
17 For years, I was able to commute to my job at the  
18 University of Kansas by bicycle. I did get a driver's  
19 license when I was 38 and commuted once a week to the  
20 University Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. For  
21 the last 17 years, I've used a car to commute to our  
22 state's capitol during the legislative session.

1           My husband and I agreed that we would look for a  
2   newer car if I were re-elected in 2020. For the past  
3   year, we've been the proud owners of an all-electric  
4   car. It is an absolutely fabulous in-town car. When I  
5   drive to the grocery store, if I go on 6th Street,  
6   which has stop signs and traffic lights and then come  
7   home down the hill on 9th Street, I can make the trip  
8   with the same estimated miles left on our car.

9           When I'm commuting to the legislature, I can plug  
10  in the car at night, avoiding peak use times. Because  
11  Kansas is within the Southwest Car Pool's region, I can  
12  also check the wind forecast for our region and plug in  
13  the car when wind generation in our region is over 50  
14  percent.

15          However, I do recognize from living in a  
16  neighborhood adjacent to the University of Kansas  
17  campus, my neighbors who do not live in a house with a  
18  garage and park on spaces off the alley or on the  
19  street do not have the same opportunities to make EV  
20  charging work for the best.

21          Unfortunately, charging a car during the day may  
22  increase our dependence on fossil fuels.

1           Please focus on reducing the emissions from both  
2 internal combustion engines as well as encourage  
3 electric vehicles and embrace the opportunities for the  
4 standard to be raised for all passenger vehicles and  
5 light-duty trucks so that we have fewer emissions and  
6 thus a lower negative impact to society's health and  
7 ecosystems.

8           Lastly, I want to send a very, very tardy thank  
9 you to the EPA officials for your regulations regarding  
10 landfill locations in the 1970s. Because of those, and  
11 I served on the Lawrence Commission, you helped the  
12 City of Lawrence begin its tripping and recycling  
13 programs.

14           Here is another chance to utilize your power in  
15 solidifying better vehicle emission standards for our  
16 country and the world's benefit. Many Kansans and I  
17 are counting on you.

18           Thank you.

19           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

20           The next speaker will be Maureen Dugan. When you  
21 are ready, please unmute and state your name and  
22 affiliation for the record.

1 MS. DUGAN: Thank you so, so much, and I  
2 apologize. I was coming home from school and I  
3 apologize.

4 My name is Maureen Dugan. Can I get my hand down?  
5 Yeah. I'm speaking to you today as a Massachusetts  
6 High School Science Teacher with almost 50 years in the  
7 field.

8 I'm here to implore you to institute the second  
9 alternative for clean car emissions. History has shown  
10 us that the auto industry will fight this with  
11 everything that they have.

12 As some of you may remember, I spent too much time  
13 today trying to get a picture up of L.A. in '68 versus  
14 now. The first time the EPA mandated emissions  
15 standards, the American automakers screamed and  
16 refused. While Japan hired engineers, Detroit hired  
17 lawyers.

18 Repeatedly, Detroit has decried regulation to  
19 protect our environment and only does the right thing  
20 when mandated to do it. The result is that America  
21 lost its hegemony in regard to the automobile industry.

22 Please force Detroit to let their lawyers and

1 lobbyists go and force them to hire American engineers  
2 instead. Help make use the forefront of this  
3 technology, help make us the leader again, and protect  
4 people's health and that of the planet. We're relying  
5 on you. Please make us safer.

6 Usually I teach biology and recently began  
7 teaching environmental science instead. While many of  
8 my former students have gone on to successful science  
9 careers in medicine, in engineering, and a lot of  
10 stuff, environmental science is the single most  
11 important course that I can teach.

12 My students are painfully -- my high school  
13 students are painfully aware of the wildfires, floods,  
14 rising sea levels, threatened polar bears, etcetera,  
15 that are in large part due to fossil fuel emissions.  
16 I am here to tell you that these kids are scared and  
17 they're scared enough to feel helpless.

18 This is only my second time teaching this course,  
19 but previously each time I would suggest some way that  
20 the kids could change their behavior, using a reusable  
21 water bottle or buying less consumables, their mantra  
22 was "we're screwed." It's up to my students and me and

1 you to make this better. We need to rely on you for  
2 this regulation. Please make us safer.

3 This year, my mantra for them will be things are  
4 getting better. The air quality in L.A. is better than  
5 it was in the '70s. Rivers are no longer catching on  
6 fire. We're using fewer CFCs in our air conditioning.  
7 The hole in the ozone layer is getting smaller. We're  
8 using more renewable energy. Our cars are getting more  
9 efficient and less polluting. That's my job to teach  
10 and instill hope into these kids so they can make a  
11 difference without having to be Greta Thunberg..

12 I need to hold my students, some of them  
13 unwilling, to high standards. We need you, I implore  
14 you, to make the unwilling industry do the right thing  
15 and protect people's and the planet's immediate and  
16 long-time health. We need to rely on you. Please make  
17 us safer. Close the loopholes and don't give credence  
18 to the industry's specious claims that this cannot be  
19 done. Enact the second alternative.

20 If Americans won't, then I'm betting the Japanese  
21 will. We need to rely on you. Please make us safer  
22 and thank you so much for your time.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

2 As a reminder, if you're speaking today, you'll  
3 receive a notification on your screen that you are  
4 being promoted to the role of panelist shortly prior to  
5 your speaking time. You must accept that invitation to  
6 be able to unmute when you are called to testify. This  
7 will also allow you to turn on your camera which we  
8 encourage you to do.

9 Speakers connected by telephone should unmute  
10 their phones when called to testify.

11 If you are having technical difficulties, please  
12 send an e-mail to [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call  
13 919-294-7712. If you are not registered to speak but  
14 you would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th, please  
15 send an e-mail with your and phone number to  
16 [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

17 The next speaker is Rob Larew. Rob, we do not  
18 currently have you listed among our attendees at this  
19 time. However, if you have joined under a different  
20 name, we would ask that you raise your hand, and I can  
21 see a phone number raising their hand and so I am going  
22 to allow you to talk and you will need to make sure



1 that your phone is unmuted in order to comment.

2 MR. LAREW: Thank you for this opportunity and for  
3 the technical assistance there.

4 I must say as a rural resident that we appreciate  
5 all the flexibility here as rural broadband challenges  
6 and connectivity for rural residents to be able to  
7 connect in many of these opportunities is a very  
8 significant and very real challenge for many of us.

9 My name is Rob Larew, and I serve as the President  
10 of National Farmers Union, a grassroots organization  
11 that advocates on behalf of family farmers and ranchers  
12 and rural communities.

13 Founded in 1902, today NFU represents  
14 approximately 200,000 farmers across the country whose  
15 operations range in size, type, and production method.

16 NFU appreciates the opportunity to present this  
17 testimony on EPA's proposal to revise the light-duty  
18 vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards for Model  
19 Years 2023 and later.

20 While automakers continue to invest in vehicle  
21 electrification, there has also been ongoing  
22 investments in vehicle improvements that reduce

1 greenhouse gas emissions and internal combustion engine  
2 vehicles.

3 EPA previously agreed that these current and  
4 promising technologies may be able to deliver  
5 significant improvements in reducing greenhouse gas  
6 emissions once fully deployed. These new technologies  
7 go hand-in-hand with the use of high-octane fuels, such  
8 as mid-level ethanol blends.

9 Higher ethanol levels increase engine and vehicle  
10 efficiency, providing greater GHG emission reductions,  
11 as well as reducing emissions of criteria pollutants  
12 and air toxics, such as benzene, celluline, and xylene.

13 Several studies already have been presented to EPA  
14 regarding the many benefits of high-octane/low-carbon  
15 fuels, such as E3, and the National Highway Traffic  
16 Safety Administration's Draft supplemental  
17 Environmental Impact Statement recognizes increased GHG  
18 benefits with higher blends of ethanol as well as the  
19 ongoing reduced carbon intensity of corn ethanol.

20 Yet EPA appears to admit consideration of high-  
21 octane/low-carbon fuels in the proposal. We believe  
22 this to be an error and a missed opportunity.

1           As recently stated by the Alliance for Automotive  
2   Innovation, which represents automakers that produce  
3   nearly 99 percent of the new light-duty vehicles sold  
4   in the United States, vehicle improvements along with  
5   high-octane fuel should be encouraged as additional  
6   solutions as soon as possible to maximize environmental  
7   benefits across the fleet.

8           The Alliance acknowledged that these benefits  
9   would be realized by new and existing internal  
10   combustion engines. GHG reductions through high-  
11   octane/low-carbon fuels could be occurring now.

12           In closing, NFU asks EPA to again acknowledge the  
13   potential for high-octane/low-carbon fuels, such as  
14   E30, to reduce GHG emissions from light-duty vehicles  
15   today.

16           NFU also understands this proposal to be the first  
17   of several regulatory actions to address vehicle air  
18   emissions. In finalizing this rule and developing  
19   these proposals, EPA also must consider the economic  
20   benefits increased use of mid-level ethanol blends as a  
21   high-octane/low-carbon cost-effective fuel will bring  
22   to struggling rural communities while also benefiting

1 consumers.

2           NFU believes EPA can and should apply its current  
3 authority under the Clean Air Act to approve and  
4 require higher-octane levels as well as to remove  
5 existing regulatory barriers to using mid-level ethanol  
6 blends, such as allowing E3 to be used as a  
7 certification fuel.

8           NFU will submit more detailed written comments and  
9 we appreciate this opportunity today.

10           MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

11           The next speaker will be Shannon Baker-  
12 Branstetter. You may now unmute and please state your  
13 name and affiliation for the record.

14           MS. BAKER-BRANSTETTER: Good afternoon.

15           I'm Shannon Baker-Branstetter, Deputy Director of  
16 Policy for Dream Corp Green for All. We work to  
17 advance solutions to poverty and pollution toward a  
18 world that's green for all, not green for some.

19           Thank you so much for the opportunity to join this  
20 hearing.

21           We are heartened to see EPA state a target of  
22 reducing pollution by 60 percent by 2030 which will

1 save lives and accelerate clean transportation choices,  
2 but changes are needed to ensure the rule actually  
3 delivers on this goal.

4 In a short time I'd like to focus on two main  
5 points. First, strong greenhouse gas emissions  
6 standards for passenger vehicles are essential to meet  
7 climate and racial equity goals, and, second, EPA's  
8 Alternative 2 reduces more pollution and has higher net  
9 benefits than EPA's proposal, and Alternative 2 should  
10 be the basis for the final rule.

11 Racial inequalities and wealth, health, and risks  
12 from a changing climate means that every improvement to  
13 addressing climate change is especially beneficial to  
14 people in communities of color.

15 We may be beyond the point of being able to truly  
16 fix the climate disaster that burning fossil fuels has  
17 reaped but every fraction of a degree matters.

18 The big impact and a marginal difference in  
19 emission abatement is especially true for the most  
20 vulnerable. People who live in floodplains or red-line  
21 neighborhoods, low-income households who may be  
22 uninsured or underinsured for health or property

1 coverage, people who don't have the means to move or  
2 improve the resiliency of their homes, and people  
3 exposed to air pollution or have pre-existing health  
4 conditions are all more vulnerable to the effects of  
5 climate change.

6 As the Number 1 contributor to the highest  
7 emitting sector in the United States, light-duty  
8 vehicles present an opportunity, indeed an obligation,  
9 to reduce emissions as quickly as feasible so that  
10 other human needs can be met.

11 For example, increasing extreme heat means that we  
12 will need to add air conditioning for people to avoid  
13 heat stroke which can cook people's organs without a  
14 place of reprieve.

15 Transportation has the highest potential to reduce  
16 emissions and we can do this without losing mobility.  
17 We can still get where we need to go with lower  
18 emissions and can make these cuts in transportation  
19 emissions far easier than in other essential sectors.

20 According to EPA's own analysis, the fuel savings  
21 alone offset the costs of Alternative 2. Alternative 2  
22 has almost 30 percent higher net benefits and even

1 applying a seven percent discount rate, both EPA's  
2 proposal and Alternative 2 have the same delta between  
3 the costs and fuel savings. Therefore, there's no  
4 downside to adopting Alternative 2 compared to the  
5 proposal.

6 The higher net benefits under both three percent  
7 and seven percent discount rate make Alternative 2 the  
8 most rational option.

9 Given the risks of abrupt changes from global  
10 temperature rise identified in the 2021 IPCC Report,  
11 the benefits of reducing emission are very likely  
12 underestimated in the government's analysis.

13 When it comes to passenger vehicle emissions,  
14 there's room for dramatic improvement. In Model Year  
15 2019, average emission rates for all new vehicles  
16 increased three grams per mile, even as all automakers  
17 were compliant with the standards.

18 There are too many loopholes and bonus credits  
19 even in the existing program and stricter standards and  
20 less potential for gaining the system will be needed to  
21 reach a 60 percent reduction in emissions by 2030.

22 In conclusion, the status quo even before the

1 COVID-19 pandemic made far too many people of color  
2 sick and died too early from issues directly related to  
3 inequity in economic and environmental injustice. We  
4 can build prosperity for all Americans by adopting  
5 pollution standards that are strong enough to protect  
6 the health of the most vulnerable and to encourage  
7 innovation and deployment of clean transportation  
8 solutions.

9 EPA's Alternative 2 is the clear superior choice  
10 to reach these goals.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

13 The next speaker will be Mitch Hescox. We do not  
14 currently have you listed among the attendees at this  
15 time. However, if you have joined under a different  
16 name, we would invite you at this time to raise your  
17 hand and if you have joined using your phone, you can  
18 raise your hand by dialing Star 9.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We will move on to the next  
21 speaker.

22 Our next speaker will be Gregory Caudill. You may



1 now unmute and please state your name and affiliation  
2 for the record.

3 MR. CAUDILL: Good afternoon.

4 My name's Gregory Caudill, and I'm here today as a  
5 private citizen, retired tire salesman, and retired  
6 chief machinist mate, nuclear, on submarines.

7 I fully support this Administration's swift action  
8 on clean cars and I strongly urge the EPA to adopt the  
9 second alternative for more stringent regulations.

10 In the year 2000, my wife and I purchased the  
11 second Honda Insight that arrived in Gainesville,  
12 Florida, and our first five years of ownership my wife  
13 averaged 74 miles per gallon.

14 Over the time we owned the Insight she never went  
15 below an average of 60 miles per gallon. She put over  
16 350,000 miles on that little car, which brings me to my  
17 concerns.

18 How will light-duty vehicle standards be  
19 maintained once they are established? What kind of air  
20 will our grandchildren be breathing in 2050 or a  
21 thousand years? How will we protect our shrinking oil  
22 supplies for the future?

1           With every Administration change, we see changes  
2 to clean air regulations. In the area of science, in  
3 the area of convenience, and then there are people who  
4 believe the science but lack the fortitude to effect  
5 change and people who believe the science but are  
6 unable to get the necessary votes to establish  
7 permanent change. This time we must not fail.

8           Strong standards have been established before and  
9 I have seen them gutted every time.

10          The United States put mankind on the moon but  
11 hasn't managed to apply the same drive to make the  
12 automotive industry more efficient. We're too busy  
13 playing politics.

14          The clean air provisions deserve to be protected  
15 by federal legislation across the full spectrum. We  
16 must enact laws, not rules, in order to succeed.

17          The rich aren't worried about clean air. They'll  
18 be able to purchase it when the rest of us are gasping.  
19 We are leaving our children's children one of the  
20 largest tax bills in history. What are we going to do  
21 when we can no longer use tomorrow's money to pay  
22 today's bills? Why are we using tomorrow's carbon

1 credits to pay for today's pollution?

2 The EPA should tighten light-duty emissions and  
3 this Administration must once again make those rule  
4 changes by law. My grandchildren are inheriting a  
5 planet I barely recognize. Global warming has already  
6 produced hotter summers and warmer winters from 50  
7 years ago.

8 The ice caps and glaciers are melting. Our  
9 freshwater supplies are threatened. Homes are coming  
10 apart in the Midwest because of excessive groundwater  
11 removal by commercial and farm interests.

12 Additionally, we are filling our low-wealth and  
13 people of color communities by not achieving  
14 environmental justice to mitigate the impact that  
15 climate change is causing.

16 Ladies and gentlemen, gender neutrals, we will go  
17 to Mars. We will go out to the asteroid belt and  
18 beyond in the next two three hundred years. We're  
19 going to need petroleum solvents, oils, and greases.  
20 How can we continue to plunder our remaining petroleum  
21 resources?

22 Strong clean air standards will drive down

1 pollution, provide communities savings, and spur  
2 innovation such as membrane nano-fiber hydrogen fuel  
3 cells, lithium alkaline long-term storage batteries,  
4 and wind and solar-powered rapid-charging stations.

5 The U.S. should have solar power from every roof,  
6 private or public. We can raise the clean car  
7 standards. We must partner with the automotive  
8 industry to create strong standards that close the  
9 loopholes of weaker legislation.

10 So I say let's save money and move ever forward  
11 toward the Alternative 2 clean standards.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

14 At this time, as we are slightly ahead of schedule  
15 for the day, we will open up comments to anyone who is  
16 scheduled to speak tomorrow who would like to speak  
17 today.

18 We will take the first five to 10 comments and  
19 please indicate that you are here by raising your hand  
20 and we will promote you to panelist.

21 Kenneth Moore, I can see that you have your hand  
22 raised. So I will be promoting you to panelist at this

1 time.

2 As a reminder, you will need to accept the  
3 invitation in order to become a panelist and therefore  
4 be able to unmute.

5 Kenneth, I believe I just gave you the ability to  
6 unmute, although you will be unable to turn on your  
7 video, if you would like to try unmuting at this time.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. THOMPSON: It seems that there may be some  
10 technical difficulty. If you are experiencing  
11 technical difficulties, we would encourage you to e-  
12 mail [public\\_hearing@abtassoc.com](mailto:public_hearing@abtassoc.com) or call 919-294-7712.

13 As a reminder, we are currently opening it up for  
14 comments that were originally scheduled for tomorrow.  
15 So feel free to raise your hand and we will promote you  
16 to panelist.

17 Arthur Smith, I see that your hand is raised and  
18 so I will promote you now. When you are ready, please  
19 unmute and state your name and affiliation for the  
20 record.

21 MR. SMITH: Thank you for this opportunity to  
22 testify.

1 My name is Arthur Smith. I am here today as a  
2 private citizen. I am now retired but served 20 years  
3 in the Air Force analyzing foreign threats to our  
4 weapons systems, followed by five years at Southwest  
5 Mutual Institute and 12 years at Syracuse Research  
6 Corporation, SRC. While at SRC, I led a group  
7 analyzing the maximum detection range of hostile radars  
8 that might threaten U.S. aircraft.

9 You will note that none of our aircraft have been  
10 shot down by hostile radars and missiles in the last 20  
11 years.

12 I hold a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering  
13 from the University of Oklahoma.

14 I strongly support this Administration's swift  
15 action on clean cars.

16 My personal reasons for testifying, I admit to  
17 being strongly influenced by Elon Musk. Since 2012, I  
18 listened to what he said about hastening our transition  
19 to sustainable energy.

20 As soon as I could convince my wife, we bought a  
21 2014 Tesla Model S. I still regard it as my most  
22 satisfying purchase.

1           In addition, I installed solar panels on my roof  
2           and I take great pleasure in driving on sunshine. My  
3           Tesla automobile is quick, clean, quiet, and costs  
4           nothing to drive.

5           In addition, Tony Seba in his book Clean  
6           Disruption and Rethink X has been a major influence. I  
7           strongly believe we could provide all of our energy  
8           from solar, wind, and battery by 2030. We only lack  
9           the will.

10           We had a major power problem in February here in  
11           Texas with many deaths and total loss of power and  
12           water for some households for days. Our Governor was  
13           quick to blame the problem on renewable energy. That  
14           quickly proved false.

15           The Biden Administration has pledged to put the  
16           U.S. on track to reduce greenhouse emissions by more  
17           than 60 percent by 2030. Alternative 2 is the better  
18           plan because it closes loopholes, saves consumers, and  
19           addresses the ongoing climate crisis.

20           Let's get on with it. By 2030, we should be able  
21           to convert to all renewable energy. Fewer electric  
22           cars versus hybrids are the best, most efficient

1 transportation alternative and emit zero pollution. We  
2 must fix the source of electric power, however.

3 Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Below  
4 I've attached Rethink X diagram that shows it would  
5 cost \$197 billion over 10 years to transition Texas to  
6 all solar, wind, and batteries but then we would be  
7 entirely free from air-polluting fossil fuel and  
8 provide clean air for our grandchildren.

9 In addition, we would have considerable excess  
10 energy under almost all conditions. This requires a  
11 lot more solar power, a lot more batteries, but not as  
12 much as you might think, and a few more wind turbines.

13 Thank you again.

14 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

15 It appears that Milton Mitchell may have joined us  
16 as a panelist. If you would like to make your comment  
17 today as opposed to tomorrow, you are welcome to unmute  
18 and please state your name and affiliation for the  
19 record.

20 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. My name is Milton Mitchell,  
21 and good afternoon to everyone.

22 I reside in fort Washington, Maryland, and I am



1 here today as a private concerned citizen and also an  
2 immuno-compromised African American male 61 years old.

3 First, let me say that the air quality right now  
4 is tragically toxic and it's only getting worse. I  
5 heard a great deal of the eloquent panelists earlier  
6 speaking. I heard everything they were saying. So I  
7 decided to reduce what I was going to say tomorrow and  
8 I was glad I would be able to share today.

9 But one of the biggest concerns I have right now  
10 is my family lives in Connecticut and we see all the  
11 devastation that's going on up there. I have family  
12 down in Florida, see erosion of the sand and sea and  
13 buildings falling, collapsing. I have family in  
14 Northwest, in part of California, Washington, where all  
15 the fires are burning right now, and what they have in  
16 common is the air that is flowing across the skies that  
17 they're breathing in and right now along with how we're  
18 trying to survive with the pandemic, as I am myself,  
19 being in the hospital for three plus months on a  
20 temporary heart machine due to hereditary amyloidosis  
21 and a poisoned liver, I know what it is to breathe  
22 hard.

1 I don't want anyone to ever go through what I had  
2 to go through and the road that we're on right now with  
3 the toxicity, the pollution, the problem we're having  
4 with the waters, contamination of the fish I love so  
5 well, and, most of all, the vehicles that we all drive.

6 So what I ask today is that the EPA do everything  
7 it can within its power to do everything it can to  
8 reduce any pollution or toxicity because myself, along  
9 with millions, almost two to three percent of the  
10 population is immuno-compromised, transplant  
11 recipients. Some have transplanted hearts, some liver,  
12 whatever the case may be. It could be heart, could be  
13 liver, could be kidneys, and at this particular time  
14 what we're looking for is help and support and  
15 direction from the leadership.

16 I'm very proud of the Biden Administration at this  
17 time and I voted for him and I worked for him very  
18 hard, but this here is something that's urgently  
19 important right now.

20 I'm painfully concerned as I see what is going on.  
21 We must wear the masks. We must do all the things to  
22 stay healthy, but we can control the climate if we do

1 the right thing here which must be done.

2 So I ask today as the African American 61-year-old  
3 male with immuno-compromised, takes a great deal of  
4 medication, that EPA do something to help all  
5 compromised individuals, to help all people, the 330  
6 million that is in this country at this particular  
7 time.

8 I decided to reduce my speech that I was going to  
9 have today, but I will submit in writing the much  
10 longer.

11 I thank the panelists for its time and hope  
12 everybody stays healthy and well during this  
13 challenging time.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

17 MS. THOMPSON: The next speaker who raised their  
18 hand is Kenneth Moore. Kenneth, you are welcome to  
19 unmute and please state your name and affiliation for  
20 the record.

21 MR. MOORE: My name is Kenneth Moore, and I serve  
22 as Moderator of the First Congregation Church. Our

1 church is one of thousands of faith communities that  
2 are part of Interfaith Power & Light. I'm not speaking  
3 for our church but as a private citizen.

4 The latest report by the IPCC has rightly called a  
5 Code Red for Humanity, but the climate scientists who  
6 prepared the report also offered the hopeful assessment  
7 that if the top emitting countries respond to the  
8 report's alarm bells with aggressive efforts to curb  
9 carbon pollution, the worst climate outcomes remain  
10 avoidable.

11 For those of us living in the Foothills of  
12 California, this year's fires have been terrifying. We  
13 have a family in our congregation that lost their home  
14 in the River Fire and other families have had to  
15 evacuate because of the Caldor Fire.

16 This year's dreadful fire season has come about in  
17 part because of our use of fossil fuels has warmed the  
18 planet by one degree Celsius. The scientists predict  
19 that the intensity of extreme weather will be twice as  
20 bad compared to today's conditions if temperatures  
21 reach two degrees and quadruple as bad if global  
22 warming reaches three degrees.

1 AS Texas Climate Scientist Katherine Hague put it,  
2 "Again and again assessment after assessment, the IPCC  
3 has already made it clear climate change puts at risk  
4 every aspect of human life as we know it. We're  
5 already starting to experience those risks today, but  
6 we know what we need to do today to avoid the worst  
7 future impacts. The difference between a fossil fuel  
8 versus a clean energy future is nothing less than the  
9 future of civilization as we know it."

10 That's why I believe that the EPA must set the  
11 strongest possible federal clean car standards.  
12 Choosing to continue producing less-efficient vehicles  
13 just isn't wasteful, it's a moral travesty. It is  
14 critical that the United States move without delay  
15 toward a clean energy economy.

16 The EPA's rules can have a profound impact upon  
17 the sector that currently generates the largest  
18 percentage of climate pollution, transportation.

19 By adopting the strongest possible clean car  
20 standards, you will not only drive down vehicle  
21 pollution but you'll also spur the economy as new  
22 sustainable automotive technologies are brought online.

1           While the purchase costs of electric vehicles is  
2           currently higher than fossil fuel vehicles, that's  
3           about to change. With increased production and  
4           advances in better e-technology, the range and purchase  
5           costs of electric vehicles will soon be on par with  
6           fossil cars and trucks.

7           I'm thankful for the EPA's commitment to  
8           environmental justice because pollution has had its  
9           greatest impacts on the most vulnerable in our  
10          communities.

11          As faith leaders, we are eager to support the work  
12          that the EPA is doing not only to reduce pollution but  
13          to implement just and equitable solutions to the  
14          climate crisis.

15          Thank you very much.

16          MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your comment.

17          At this time we have no one else scheduled to  
18          speak. If there is anyone who did not register to  
19          speak but would like to speak tomorrow, August 26th,  
20          during our second day of the hearing, please send an e-  
21          mail with your name and phone number to  
22          public\_hearing@abtassoc.com or call 919-294-7712.

1 We will now pause to see if anyone else would like  
2 to raise their hand from tomorrow's speaker list.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. We are now at the end of our  
5 afternoon session.

6 EPA, are you ready to adjourn the virtual hearing  
7 for today?

8 MR. OLECHIW: Yes, thank you, Kayla.

9 First of all, I want to thank all of the speakers  
10 for taking the time to participate today. It's very  
11 much appreciated.

12 I will ask one more time would anyone else like to  
13 speak who cannot speak tomorrow? One more last  
14 opportunity to raise your hand.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. OLECHIW: Okay. Good. I will conclude the  
17 hearing for now and continue tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.  
18 Eastern Time using the Day 2 Zoom Link provided in your  
19 preparation e-mail.

20 Again, I want to thank all those who have  
21 participated so far and again please remember that  
22 we'll be accepting written comments through Monday,

1 September 27th.

2 With that, I conclude this Public Hearing for  
3 today and I wish everyone a good evening.

4 Thank you again.

5 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned, to  
6 reconvene tomorrow morning, Thursday, August 26th,  
7 2021, at 9:30 a.m.)

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## Reporters Certificate

I, Christine Allen have taken these proceedings and thereafter reduced it to this typewritten transcript under my supervision; that said transcript is a true record of the testimony; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the proceeding; and further, that I am not a relative or an employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, or financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the proceeding, or any action involved therewith.

Witness my signature and seal:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Allen", is written over a horizontal line.

Christine Allen

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