



May 26, 2023

Secretary Shawn M. Garvin
Delaware Department of Natural Resources &
Environmental Control (DNREC)
100 W. Water Street, Suite 6A
Dover, DE 19904

Re: Adopt Advanced Clean Cars II rules to clean the air and save lives

Dear Secretary Garvin:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we urge the State of Delaware to join the growing list of states to adopt the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) rule to clean up passenger vehicle emissions. Transportation continues to be the leading source of emissions in the United States, and Delaware has shown leadership to implement more health-protective vehicle standards to support public health and a healthy climate.

Continuing this clean air leadership through the ACC II rules will provide the much-needed emission reductions for healthier air for all residents, and especially those most impacted by transportation pollution. The American Lung Association's [State of the Air 2023](#) report found that Delaware is home to 92,844 adults and children living with asthma that need stronger protection against these harmful ozone ("smog") and particle ("soot") pollutants. Air pollution can cause negative health impacts such as asthma attacks, heart attacks, and lung and cardiovascular diseases. This is especially true for communities of color. Although people of color are 41% of the overall population of the U.S., they are 54% of the nearly 120 million people living in counties with at least one failing grade. In the counties with the worst air quality that get failing grades for all three pollution measures, 72% of the 18 million residents affected are people of color.

A key option for protecting the health of Delawareans is the widescale transition to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) which will provide critical health benefits to our residents but especially to our most vulnerable communities suffering the most polluted air. Setting cleaner vehicle and ZEV policies within the ACC II standards will result in the real-world emission reductions needed to breathe cleaner air. We urge you to move Delaware ahead by adopting the ACC II standards to reduce harmful smog-forming and particle pollution emissions from the passenger vehicle fleet while also putting the state on the path toward 100 percent ZEV sales by 2035. This rule is critical to protecting lung health through cleaning the air and reducing carbon pollution.

The Lung Association's [Zeroing on Healthy Air](#) report found that Delaware will benefit from a widespread shift to zero-emission transportation and electricity. We found that this transition could result in \$5.1 Billion in public health benefits for the state, 462 premature deaths avoided, 11,200 in asthma attacks avoided, and 55,100 in lost workdays avoided cumulatively by 2050.

We urge you to approve the ACC II standards as soon as possible so residents can breathe healthy air. We thank you for all the work you do for Delaware. Please contact me at the American Lung Association with any questions at aleks.casper@lung.org.

Sincerely,
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)
American College of Physicians Delaware Chapter
American Lung Association in Delaware
Medical Society of Delaware
NAMI Delaware