

Public Comments on ACC2 Program for Delaware

Alan Greenglass <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

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To: Krall, Kyle (DNREC) <Kyle.Krall@delaware.gov>

Mr Kyle Krall,

Governor Carney, and Mr.Krall -

As a member of the Stakeholder Group put together by DNREC to comment on the ACC2 proposal I,ve already expressed my support for Delaware to move forward with this program.

Knowing of the importance of this action, and having learned even more about the program over the last month, I want to strongly re-iterate my enthusiastic support.

Amongst the Stakeholder Group I am unique as being a healthcare professional (physician), and as someone who spent his career looking for ways to bring public health principles, and the awareness of social determinants of health, into medical practice. It is abundantly clear to me, and it has been stated by all major health care organizations in the country (including the AMA and the American Nurses Association), that climate change and air and water pollution, are currently harming the health of all Americans. This is especially true for the young, the old, and for those who don't have the financial resources to protect themselves from a changing climate. It is up to us, including health professionals, to do what governments and leaders must always do. We must put first the needs of our most vulnerable, and ensure that our entire populace has the best chance as possible for a healthy and prosperous future.

Those in opposition to ACC2 tell us that pollution is not really so bad, it's not our fault so we shouldn't be responsible for fixing it, that climate change will get better on its own, that the "market" should be allowed to work its magic. This is the same strategy used by people who said that acid rain was beyond our means to fix, that lead in gasoline and paint wasn't a health risk, that seat belts would take away our freedom and would cause more deaths, and that smoking wasn't bad for us and it was really what people wanted to do. When it came to smoking they didn't tell the truth about what they knew, and then they said the "market" should rule. If governments and health professions hadn't prevailed our smoking rate in this country would still be 45% and not the 20% or less it now is, and millions more people would have suffered heart and respiratory disease, and cancer.

Let's not let the same objections to fighting smoking prevail when it comes to action on climate and pollution. For our risks now are even greater than that from tobacco use and second-hand smoke. Now everyone is at risk. ACC2 is not perfect, but it will accelerate what we need to do. The public and even the automakers, are waiting for a path forward. And, cleaner air will improve our health, and even cost less than trying to fix people once they're sick.

Thanks for your consideration. Alan S. Greenglass, M.D.

Alan Greenglass
agreenglass42@gmail.com
3 Meadows Lane
Wilmington, Delaware 19807