



The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

June 14, 2023

Re: Protect Latino/e communities with strongest Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) and Light / Medium Duty Vehicle (L/MDV) standards

Dear Administrator Regan,

On behalf of the undersigned environmental justice groups, locality-based organizations, and other advocacy groups, we urge the U.S. EPA to create the strongest possible standards to mitigate detrimental impacts of heavy duty vehicle (HDV) and light- and medium-duty vehicle (L/MDV) pollution on our communities. The current tailpipe emissions rulemaking can help enable us to achieve a more sustainable, emissions-free future for all communities.

For Greenhouse gas (GHG) Phase 3 HDV standards, we urge the U.S. EPA to finalize the strongest possible cleaner trucks standards. The standards must require tighter limits on diesel vehicles, so that we're making diesel trucks increasingly cleaner as manufacturers transition to zero pollution vehicles.

For Multi-Pollutant L/MDV standards, we urge the U.S. EPA to finalize the strongest possible standards by the end of 2023. In the proposed rulemaking, Alternative 1 is a good start, but we need to increase the pace after 2030 to stay on route to achieve a zero emissions transportation future. We urge the EPA to continue to create standards that make gas cars cleaner and more efficient.

Evidence makes clear how instrumental the swift adoption of stringent HDV and L/MDV standards are for the future of Latino/e communities. The [2023 American Lung Association State of the Air Report](#) finds that more than one-third (36%) of people in the U.S. live in areas with failing grades for ozone or particulate pollution. This is concerning, especially considering the same report found that people of color are 3.7 times more likely than white people to live in a county with failing national air quality standards, putting our communities at even greater risk to severe health impacts and premature death.



Pollution from vehicles makes us sick and kills us. The data shows this over and over again. We need long-term protective regulation now.

For example, Latino/e children are [three times more likely](#) than white children to live in counties with low air quality. About [10% of Latino/e children](#) suffer from asthma, and Latino/e children are 40% more likely to die from asthma than non-Latino white children. These disparities have only increased over time relative to the air quality standards set by the U.S. EPA.

Transportation is the largest source of pollution that fuels the climate crisis in the US. Latino/e communities disproportionately suffer harm from tailpipe emissions. While [Latino/es are less likely to have access to a car](#) and [Latino/e workers commute by public transit nearly three times](#) the rate of white commuters, our community can face up to [75% higher rates of exposure](#) to harmful pollutants.

Today, we are at a critical nexus for clean transportation policy: We must drastically and permanently reduce air pollution from vehicles and transform our transportation landscape.

It is critical that the Biden administration pass regulations to reduce vehicle pollution and accelerate the shift to EVs. This action is crucial to achieving environmental justice. By implementing stringent HDV and L/MDV standards, the U.S. EPA will act on the Biden Administration's [stated commitment to environmental justice](#), which the White House reaffirmed in April 2023 with a new Executive Order, [Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All](#).

The strongest possible HDV and L/MDV standards will help reach the urgent goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 and will put American cars and trucks on a clear path towards achieving 100% zero emission electric vehicle (EV) sales by 2035 or earlier.

The Biden administration's leadership in setting strong HDV and L/MDV standards is instrumental to mitigate the inequitable tailpipe pollution experienced by Latino/e and other frontline communities, which triggers asthma and other sometimes fatal respiratory illnesses.

We need the cleanest possible vehicles now. Our lives literally depend on it.

Sincerely,

[Undersigned organizations are listed on the following page]



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
CALSTART
C40 Cities
Center for Biological Diversity
Chispa LCV
Clean Air Coalition Laredo
Clean Energy Works
Coltura
Conservation Law Foundation
Dream.org
Earthjustice
Electric Vehicle Association
Endangered Species Coalition
EVHybridNoire
EV Charging for All Coalition (EVCAC)
Evergreen Action
GreenLatinos (*lead*)
GRID Alternatives
itselectric
La Maraña
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
New Mexico Voices for Children
Plug In America
Project Green Home
Prosperity Works
Respiratory Health Association
Responsible Alpha
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
The Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Together for Brothers (T4B)
Warehouse Workers for Justice
Zero Emission Transportation Association (ZETA)