

**Testimony of:**  
**Daniel M. Dolan-Laughlin, Volunteer for the American Lung Association in Illinois**  
**Before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**RE: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emissions and Fuel Standards Program**  
**Docket ID NO. EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0135**

**April 29, 2013**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

My name is Daniel M. Dolan-Laughlin. I am here to testify today how lower pollution will benefit millions of people who suffer from respiratory illnesses. Although I am not a scientist, nor a doctor, I'm someone who nearly lost his life to COPD. I am also someone who received a double-lung transplant; and someone for whom pollution standards, like the proposed cleaner gasoline and vehicle standards will mean the difference between life and death.

I suffered from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, for decades. As the disease progressed, I could no longer work. My quality of life declined slowly at first, then more rapidly as I approached end-stage. I required round-the-clock oxygen therapy to perform even basic functions. Eventually, I wound up in the hospital with end-stage COPD. My doctor told me the words no one is ever prepared to hear—that I had only several days left to live without mechanical support. And yet, a miracle occurred. Through the wonder of organ donation and transplantation, I was given the wonderful gift of life and hope... a healthy pair of lungs.

Even with this life-changing gift, I must be vigilant about avoiding air pollution of any kind. Poor air quality all too often forces me to stay indoors on days when ozone and particle pollution exceed healthy levels. I dread code orange days, because pollution makes me sick and can send me to the hospital in critical condition.

I depend on healthy air to breathe and live. And there are many, many others who depend on it as much as I do too!

I'm not here simply to talk about my own battle for healthy air. I'm here as an advocate for everyone living with lung disease including asthma sufferers, COPD patients, and others whose most basic quality of life depends on having healthy air to breathe.

If like me, you live here in the Windy City, chances are you either spend your time at home or at work within 300-500 meters of a major roadway. Living and commuting by automobile here means we are constantly bombarded with tailpipe pollution and are unable to escape this unhealthy danger zone. That is why not delaying the implementation of the proposed cleaner gasoline and vehicle standards is not only a necessity for our sprawling community, but also for up to a staggering 45 percent of the nation.

Everyone deserves the right to breathe healthy air, but we will not be able to even begin to claim that right until the next round of cleaner gasoline and vehicle emissions standards is firmly in place. Once it is, we'll experience immediate relief from smog and particle pollution, so much so that it will feel like there are 33 million less cars on the road.

For me, I know this will mean I will be able to spend more time outdoors with my grandchildren and won't have to miss trips to the zoo and other family outings that poor air quality often forces me to sit out.

The fact that more than 2,500 premature deaths could be prevented every year if the EPA's proposed standards are allowed to move forward should be evidence enough of the urgent need for this standard. When you add to that the more than 3.3 million missed days of work and school that will be avoided, the magnitude of the suffering from our cars and trucks cause us is shocking, not to mention the loss in worker productivity.

Knowing we can do better for just about a penny per gallon of gasoline and roughly only \$130 per vehicle seems like a bargain to me when so many lives are needlessly at stake. Even the U.S. auto industry endorses these changes. At the end of the day, we're a country of cars and drivers. As much as we love our cars, I don't think anyone is willing to die for them. I am not.

I urge EPA to continue its role in uncompromisingly moving to implement this rule. Relief from air pollution cannot come soon enough!

Thank you for your time and your attention.