

Testimony of Judy Weimer
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
Doubletree Magnificent Mile, 300 E. Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Tomorrow, I'm celebrating my fourth birthday. That's right, I said fourth! Just shy of four years ago today, Lucy and Ethel gave me a new lease on life, and every day since then has been a cause for celebration.

In case you were wondering, Lucy and Ethel are the names of my healthy, nearly four-year-old lungs, without which I wouldn't be here today to tell you how urgently the cleaner gasoline and vehicle standards are needed to cleanup the air we breathe.

Before Lucy and Ethel came along, my health was deteriorating rapidly. It all began when I returned home from a cruise just not feeling like myself. Initially, my doctor thought I might have picked something up from my travels and even went so far to send a vial of my blood to the CDC for testing. Ultimately, it was an x-ray of my lungs that persuaded my doctor to refer me to see a pulmonologist who soon diagnosed me with COPD and predicted that I would eventually need a lung transplant.

I could barely wrap my head around the idea of having a double lung transplant. I have always been active and rarely ever missed a day of work. Yet, soon my world was turned upside down. My health began to decline to the point where I was being admitted to the hospital every six to eight weeks with either pneumonia or acute bronchitis. Somehow, as my luck would have it, I *always* ended up in room number 13 of the ICU.

My efforts to distance my time between hospital visits were becoming a lost cause. Barely able to breathe, navigating around my home was exhausting. I had to have a chair placed every five feet to rest just to be able to make it from room to room. On bad days, when I was extra shaky, more food would end up on my clothes and on the floor than in my month.

I was connected to an oxygen tank 24 hours a day. Just taking a shower was at least a four-hour process. I would work a little shampoo into one section of my hair and then to rest for 10 minutes or so before being able to begin again.

Life was depressing, and it was clear in my wait for Lucy and Ethel that time was quickly running out.

Soon I would know the names of each of the paramedics that were frequently dispatched to my home. Even in my condition, I still wanted to be a good host, so I encouraged them to take a pop from the fridge before strapping me onto their gurney and whisking me away to the hospital.

Thanks to Lucy and Ethel, I have my life back. I can once again live independently and am so grateful to have received the gift of life. This amazing gift comes with one condition. That condition is that I have to have healthy air to stay in good health. I never want to return to my old life.

That is why I humbly urge the EPA to not delay in implementing the proposed standards. I am just one the millions of Americans who lives near a major roadway. Cleaner gasoline and vehicle standards will ensure Lucy, Ethel and I have many more years and adventures ahead of us.

Next week in fact, we are repelling 278 feet off the top of the Wit Hotel to raise awareness for lung disease research. Once the proposed Tier 3 Standards are in place, we'll be unstoppable.