

Comments of William Barrett
Assistant Vice President, Nationwide Clean Air Policy
American Lung Association
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-3297
June 3, 2026

My name is Will Barrett, Assistant Vice President for nationwide clean air policy with the American Lung Association. My organization calls on EPA to retract this proposal to stall clean air progress and implement existing clean air standards without delay.

The existing vehicle standards are designed to protect health against polluted air and the well-documented health harms of transportation pollution. The progress made through clear, science-based standards has been remarkable, but is nowhere near complete.

Today, more than 153 million people in the US – including over 33 million children – are impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone and particle pollution.

These are the pollutants that would be controlled to a significant level by the existing EPA standards. These standards will cut particle pollution from new cars by over 90 percent through proven, widely deployed technologies. Through innovation in combustion engine controls, the standards would also reduce smog-forming oxides of nitrogen from new cars by half or more.

Part 1 of EPA's proposal will delay relief from these deadly pollutants by two years – and we dread the impacts of Part 2 of this proposal which we expect will compound the problem by leading to more polluted air for America's kids.

For decades, EPA standards have been driven by the clear goal of health protection. This approach has worked to delivered cleaner, more efficient and more affordable vehicles to the American public.

That successful model has been thrown into chaos by recent federal actions to weaken, delay and repeal vehicle standards across the board – without robust analysis of air quality or health impacts.

This proposal to punt on health protection is just the latest example of actions that ignore the science, the technology and the urgency of limiting pollution from transportation sources:

EPA's proposed repeal of the greenhouse gas standards for vehicles came with assurances that that drastic action wouldn't impact health.

NHTSA's proposed rollback of fuel economy standards will increase emissions while making for less efficient cars, cars that will burn more fuel and cost more to operate.

As with those actions that will increase health harm through transportation pollution, we again call on EPA to drop this proposal and return to its mission to protect health.

The American Lung Association forcefully opposes any delays of vehicle standards and urges EPA to retain and implement the existing standards without delay in the best interests of health.