



House Bill 1556
Environment and Transportation Committee
March 11, 2025
Oppose

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. **The American Lung Association in Maryland respectfully opposes House Bill 1556 which would delay adoption and implementation of the Advance Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) standards.** The Lung Association believes that Maryland must continue to enact policies that will make meaningful reductions in harmful air and climate pollution and ultimately protect the health and well-being of Marylanders, and House Bill 1556 undermines these efforts by delaying substantial public health benefits of these clean air standards. We believe these life-saving standards should be implemented as planned so that Maryland can benefit from the immediate health impacts on the schedule currently in place.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association's [2024 State of the Air](#)¹ report revealed that four in ten Americans, more than 131 million people live in counties that had unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution. In Maryland there were mixed results with two counties receiving a failing grade for high ozone pollution and another four counties receiving a 'C' or lower living in a community with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. Ozone and particle pollution can harm the health of all Maryland residents and of particular risk are children, older adults, pregnant people, and those living with chronic diseases – approximately 80,000 children and 504,000 adults are living with asthma in Maryland and another 242,000 are managing other lung illnesses. Both ozone and particle pollution can cause premature death and other serious health effects such as asthma attacks, cardiovascular damage, and developmental and reproductive harm.

The transportation sector is the leading source of air and climate pollutants. The American Lung Association issued our [Zeroing In on Healthy Air](#)² report which finds that a widespread transition to zero-emission vehicles powered by clean energy sources could result in up to 110,000 avoidable deaths and \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits across the United States over the next 30 years. In Maryland specifically, the report found that transition to clean energy transportation could have \$27.8 billion in public health benefits including 2,530 avoided deaths, 63,600 avoided asthma attacks and 315,000 avoided lost workdays. Achieving these public health benefits requires strong policies and investments at the local, state, and national levels to spur the transition to zero-emission vehicles and non-combustion, electricity generation. The transition to zero-emission technologies would benefit residents across the United States and in Maryland and especially those most burdened by power plants and transportation hubs like highways, ports, and warehouses. Implementing the Advance Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks standards as planned are critical components of this transition to healthier, more sustainable transportation and must not be delayed.

The American Lung Association believes that all people are entitled to breathe healthy air and to be free of the adverse health effects of air pollution. We support the protection of all people from the harm of air pollution, especially those who suffer disproportionate exposure from local sources of emissions including carcinogenic diesel trucking emissions. We recognize that major sources of air pollution are often located near where many people, especially communities of color or lower-income residents, live and work which means their pollution burdens can be more immediate and disproportionately harmful.

The Lung Association strongly supports the implementation of the Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks standards as integral ways to address the problem of air pollution in our state and significantly reduce harmful emissions and health disparities. House Bill 1556 undermines these efforts by delaying the implementation of these programs, therefore we request an unfavorable report from committee.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at aleks.casper@lung.org or 202-719-2810.

Sincerely,



Aleks Casper
Director of Advocacy

¹ American Lung Association. State of the Air Report, 2024. Available at: <https://www.lung.org/research/sota>

² American Lung Association. Zeroing in on Healthy Air, 2022. Available at: <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/electric-vehicle-report#>

³ American Lung Association. Delivering Clean Air: Health Benefits of Zero-Emission Trucks, 2022. Available at: <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/e1ff935b-a935-4f49-91e5-151f1e643124/zero-emission-truck-report>

