



House Bill 1258  
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 strongly opposes House Bill 1258 which would repeal the adoption and implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) standard.** 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 1258 undermines these efforts.

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](#)<sup>1</sup> 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.

Climate change is one of the most urgent threats to human health of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Reduction of harmful pollutants caused by burning fossil fuels and other combustion is critical to improving the local health today and ensuring a stable climate for future generations. Climate change is first and foremost a public health issue and one that creates disproportionate impacts across the state's diverse communities. Further, climate change is making the job of

cleaning our air much more difficult as temperatures rise and drive conditions for unhealthy ozone pollution days, among other health challenges.

The American Lung Association supports measures to reduce all emissions that contribute to climate change. Such measures should include but are not limited to transitioning away from fossil fuels to increased use of clean, non-combustion, renewable energy sources and zero-emission transportation technologies, expanding energy conservation and efficiency measures and establishing enforceable and science-based limits on emissions for all sectors including industrial, energy, commercial, residential and transportation. We support measures to reduce other outdoor air pollutants while reducing emissions that cause climate change.

The transportation sector is the leading source of air and climate pollutants. The American Lung Association issued our [Zeroing In on Healthy Air](#)<sup>2</sup> 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 Advanced Clean Trucks standard is a critical component of this transition to healthier, more sustainable transportation and must not be delayed.

More specific to the benefits of zero-emission trucks, the Lung Association also issued [Delivering Clean Air: Health Benefits of Zero-Emission Trucks](#)<sup>3</sup> that examined the health benefits of transitioning to zero-emission trucks and power generation in counties impacted by major trucking routes. Heavy-duty trucks deliver major doses of pollution to communities throughout the United States along with their cargo. The report indicated the transition to zero-emission trucking in communities with heavy trucking traffic could generate \$735 billion in public health benefits, 66,800 in fewer premature deaths, 1.7 million fewer asthma attacks and 8.5 million fewer lost workdays. Maryland specifically could see \$19.8 billion in health benefits, 1,803 avoided premature deaths, 46,875 asthma attacks avoided and 231,260 in lost workdays through the shift to zero-emission trucks and energy. We supported Maryland's efforts to accelerate the transition of heavy-duty trucks to zero emission as a significant opportunity to reduce health impacts and disparities in pollution-burdened communities and oppose any attempts to undermine these efforts.

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 Advanced Clean Trucks standard as an integral way to address the problem of air pollution in our state and significantly reduce harmful emissions and health disparities. House Bill 1258 undermines these efforts by repealing the ACT standards, 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](mailto:aleks.casper@lung.org) or 202-719-2810.

Sincerely,



Aleks Casper  
Director of Advocacy

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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>