

Dear Senator/Representative,

As national health, medical, and nursing organizations, we urge you to support transportation policies that reduce both harmful air pollution and climate pollution at the same time. The transportation sector is a leading contributor to air pollution, and the largest source of carbon pollution, in the United States. Zero-emission vehicles and associated fueling infrastructure are a critical part of the solution, coupled with expanded access to healthier mobility options, like active transportation and public transit. According to a poll by Morning Consult, public interest in purchasing electric vehicles is increasing,¹ and the private sector has begun to understand the immense health and economic benefits that would come from a transition to zero-emission vehicles. We urge Congress to use its authority to support such a transition on a national level.

We see the effects of air pollution in the patients and communities we serve. From triggering asthma attacks and worsening symptoms of lung disease to causing heart attacks, transportation pollution has dangerous impacts on health. Air pollution affects everyone's health, but certain groups are more at risk, including babies and children, pregnant people, seniors, low-income communities and people of color. In addition to the immediate health harms from breathing in transportation pollution, vehicle emissions are the greatest single U.S. source of the carbon pollution that causes climate change.

While air pollution and climate change are public health threats, our organizations also see them as public health opportunities. Transitioning to a zero-emission transportation sector provides a sensible step to maximize the benefits to health. In September 2020, the American Lung Association released "The Road to Clean Air: Benefits of a Nationwide Transition to Electric Vehicles" which found that a nationwide switch to electric cars, buses and heavy-duty trucks, backed by increasing levels of clean, non-combustion renewable energy, will save 6,300 lives, prevent 93,000 asthma attacks and avoid 416,000 lost workdays in 2050. It would also generate \$72 billion in annual health benefits and \$113 billion in global climate benefits.²

Incentivizing the purchase of both new and used electric vehicles is a key part of the solution. However, to achieve the health benefits of electric vehicles, we also need strong investments in the charging infrastructure to support them and a renewable, non-combustion energy sector to power them. Furthermore, we ask that as you consider policies and investments, you place equity at the forefront. Communities that are most burdened by fossil-fueled transportation pollution generated along our freeways, at our ports and rail yards and other transportation hotspots are where transitioning to electric vehicles would have the most public health impact and would contribute greatly to national progress toward clean air and a stable climate.

The undersigned organizations are ready to engage with you and your staff on this issue and to provide resources on the health benefits of cleaning up air pollution and transitioning the nation to an electric future.

Thank you.

¹ Morning Consult. (2021). "Electric Vehicle Holdouts Fret Most Over Charging Infrastructure" Jan 22 – Jan 25, 2021, <https://morningconsult.com/2021/02/10/energy-efficiency-series-electric-vehicles-concerns-polling/>

² American Lung Association. The Road to Clean Air: Benefits of a Nationwide Transition to Electric Vehicles. Sept 2020. www.lung.org/ev