

Clean Cars testimony

My name is Christine Knapp and I live in South Philadelphia. I am here today to voice my support for the proposed amendments to the rules governing the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles program. I think this program will make great strides towards improving Pennsylvania's health and environment and I fully support its implementation as recommended by the Department of Environmental Protection.

I support the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles program because while federal program standards would make many improvements, they don't go far enough in reducing vehicle emissions. The Cal-LEV standards would reduce emissions by an additional 6-11% over the federal standards. 10 other states representing 1/3 of auto sales in the United States have already adopted these standards.

California cars are also more fuel efficient. With gas prices soaring and peak oil looming, Pennsylvanians are finding their wallets significantly lighter after visiting a gas station. Years from now, we will all be glad that Pennsylvania had the foresight to bring cleaner, more efficient vehicles to our state as quickly as possible.

Reducing oil consumption not only lightens a significant financial burden, but also lightens our footprint on the planet. It's abundantly clear that global warming is a looming threat that must be addressed immediately. The Cal-Lev standard cars would reduce emissions of greenhouse gas emissions by 30%, with little or no cost to taxpayers.

While facts and figures show enough reasons why Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program should be implemented, I also have a personal reason why I support the program. I am an avid runner and bike rider. I am also one of the 1 million Pennsylvanians who suffer from breathing problems, asthma in my case, that are made worse by air pollution. I live near the waterfront and often run along the trail of the Delaware River. However, I-95 runs along this same path and I am constantly exposed to car emissions as I run. I also bike to and from work, when cars are most heavily congested on the roads. Being exposed to these emissions makes these activities less enjoyable, and certainly less healthy. Cleaner, more efficient cars would make a significant improvement in my daily life and on my health. In the future if my asthma worsens, doctors will likely encourage me to move to an area where I am less exposed to car emissions. If I or any other asthma sufferers choose not to live in Pennsylvania because of air pollution, it will be a real loss for our economy. A healthier environment will lead to a healthier economy in the long run.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to voice my support for the program today.

Thank you.

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