



Testimony to the CT Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Forum
January 15, 2024

To: Senator Patricia Billie Miller and honored members of the CT Black and Puerto Rican Caucus

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on an important climate and health related issue that we hope will garner the BPRC's support in the upcoming 2024 legislative session.

CTLCV would like to request your help regarding the proposed emissions standards for cars and trucks in Connecticut. We are deeply concerned about the health and well-being of residents who are being disproportionately affected by automobile pollution. Many people who do not own a car are bearing the brunt of poor air quality from tailpipe emissions, rising asthma rates, higher mortality, and sicker families.

Pursuant to the Clean Air Act, Connecticut can address these emissions by adopting up-to-date vehicle standards that will further reduce pollution from passenger cars and medium/heavy duty trucks.

It is important to emphasize that gas and diesel vehicles will not be banned, and individuals will still be able to drive and purchase conventional vehicles.

The regulations require auto and truck manufacturers to deliver increasing percentages of zero emission vehicles for sale in the state. The rules work year over year to gradually increase the supply, offering MORE choice, not less.

Adopting these regulations will result in measurable public health and environmental benefits for Connecticut residents. If we fail to make these updates to our regulations, we will be the only state on the East coast from Vermont to Virginia that has reneged on this commitment.

We urge members of the BPRC to consider the health impacts and risks associated with inaction or further delays while families in our state continue to suffer. Thank you for considering this request.

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