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Mary Nichols
Chairman, California Air Resources Board
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The Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County is writing to express our strong support of the California Clean Cars Campaign. The Coalition is a broad-based comprehensive coalition of experts from community-based organizations, advocacy groups, universities, government entities, school districts, environmental groups, health plans, hospitals and clinics in Los Angeles County. Our mission is to serve as a collective, powerful voice for policy and systems change to prevent, minimize and manage the burden of asthma.

We are deeply concerned about the poor health outcomes caused by air pollution that is driven largely by transportation emissions in California. In 2008, nearly 19,000 children in LA County visited emergency departments for asthma. Among those children, 3,000 were hospitalized, with the average charge per hospitalization averaging about \$17,000. Among those who missed school days because of their asthma, the average was 5.1 missed days. Along with triggering asthma attacks, exposure to vehicle pollution contributes to new asthma cases, impairs lung function and development and contributes to respiratory and cardiac illnesses and even premature deaths.

Strengthening California's groundbreaking clean car standards would reduce harmful tailpipe pollution from cars and light trucks, decreasing incidences of asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, respiratory emergency room visits, and cardio and respiratory hospitalizations. According to the American Lung Association, California could avoid at least \$7.2 billion annually in health and other societal costs if our entire fleet were converted to the next generation of cleaner, more efficient vehicles by 2025.

We urge the California Air Resources Board to move forward this year to protect public health by enhancing California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas regulations to reduce emissions from all new motor vehicles and by strengthening the state's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program.

We believe that the strongest possible motor vehicle emission standards are critically important for the health of Los Angeles residents and, as other states and federal government adopt California vehicle standards, for the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Robert Vinetz, MD
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