Hello, my name is Dr. Manijeh Berenji and I am a physician based in Long Beach. I’m speaking today in support of CARB’s alternative plan to bring more electric trucks to the road faster, and strengthen it to better address the dangerous polluting trucks on our roads, big-rigs.

We’re breathing the most polluted air in the country. I myself live in Long Beach near the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. The 710 freeway that exits these ports is one of the most polluted transportation corridors in the nation, filled with 1000s of diesel trucks. The disproportionate exposure of these mostly Black and Brown communities to diesel exhaust pollution is dumbfounding.

Some additional stats:

* In California, cars, trucks and buses have made our air some of the [most polluted in the nation](https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/california).
* Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 known cancer-causing organic substances, making it responsible for about [70% of cancer risk](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/overview-diesel-exhaust-and-health) related to air toxins in California.
* California cities take up 6 of the top 10 spots for [most polluted](https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/california) by deadly diesel soot pollution
* Soot pollution has not improved in California and in fact, annual soot, which is particularly harmful because it lodges deep in the lungs, has [only gotten worse](https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/california).
* [Almost every single Californian](https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/ca-sota-22) lives in an area impacted by poor air quality.
* Air pollution is deadly. Pollution from the burning of gas and diesel [is responsible](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935121000487) for nearly one in every five deaths worldwide.
* Heavy-duty trucks are the largest source of smog-forming pollution in California, and emit nearly [40%](https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2016/10/delivering-opportunity-executive-summary.pdf) of the state’s deadly diesel soot.

This board can bring polluting trucks into the future and achieve environmental justice by adopting the Advanced Clean Fleet Accelerated ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) Transition Alternative that hits 100% electric truck sales by 2036. Electric truck technology is here and strategies and funding are already in place to grow charging options to meet these reasonable and gradual goals.

CARB’s own research shows that we will achieve greater pollution reductions, save more lives, and achieve $10 billion more in additional societal benefits by moving up the 100% electric truck sales goal by just four years. And, most of those benefits are the health savings from cutting an additional 38% of the deadliest diesel soot pollution and cutting an additional 50% of smog-forming pollution.

That is why I’m asking CARB to do your duty and take the better path that you’ve already proposed to get more clean air benefits for the hardest-hit communities immediately. Thank you for your time.