

Comment from Sheboygan Ozone Reduction Alliance

Hello. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Rebecca Duquesnoy and I am part of the Sheboygan Ozone Reduction Alliance, or SORA. I am a concerned citizen and also a parent of two young children. I want to Thank President Biden and the administration for acknowledging and addressing pollution from transportation.

Sheboygan, WI is an amazing place to raise a family – we have great schools, parks, natural resources, community and activities. What you might not know is that Sheboygan county, with a population of over 115,000, is one of the top 25 most ozone polluted cities in the United States according to the American Lung Association. One of my children has special needs. She has Prader-Willi Syndrome and will need to exercise throughout her life in order to stay at a healthy weight. A healthy set of lungs is essential to her well-being. My other child is 4 and I would like him to develop healthy lungs as well. In order to keep my children healthy, we often go indoors in the afternoon and evening to avoid the highest ozone levels. My children should not have to miss out on their childhood because of high ozone levels. This summer was incredibly hot, and with climate change, our summers may continue to be hotter. This will mean more and more days where my children have to stay inside, rather than play and experience their childhood as it should be. In addition, I am a farmer and I HAVE to go outside daily, often in the evening. This year when the wildfires were so bad in Canada & Minnesota, I had to work 8 hours in high particulate matter. I cough quite frequently on days with poor air quality and I don't have any health issues. Every day I am exposed to poor air quality and I am concerned at the long term damage.

Most importantly, I would like to leave our children with a world that is not headed toward catastrophic destruction. With climate change, we will experience more frequent extreme weather events, which threatens the lives of not only my children, but all Americans. People of color, those living in low income communities, children, older adults and people living with chronic diseases are most at risk. We know that transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Of the alternatives in the NHTSA, I ask you to be AS stringent or more as alternative #3. It saves the most lives and has the most significant greenhouse gas reduction. Set these standards to go into place for cars in the model year 2024. We need to transition to zero-emission vehicles, which also has a huge cost benefit – \$72 billion in health benefits and \$113 billion in climate benefits by 2050. 70% of Americans support government policies that transition us to electric vehicles. This can be done.

We are at a pivotal moment in which we hold our children's future in our hands. We need to act now to reduce emissions to save lives and safeguard our health. I urge you to push forward with these strong greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for vehicles. Thank you.