



March 4, 2023

Commissioner Basil Seggos
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Deputy Commissioner Maureen Leddy
Office of Air Resources, Climate Change & Energy
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Re: Adoption of Advanced Clean Cars II

Dear Commissioner Seggos and Deputy Commissioner Leddy:

The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) and Advanced Energy United (United) recognize and appreciate the work of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in protecting the environment and advancing the transition to a clean transportation sector in New York State.

We are writing today to voice our support to the DEC for adopting Advanced Clean Cars II regulations (ACC II), which will require all new passenger cars and trucks sold in New York State to be zero-emissions by 2035. The Final Climate Scoping Plan recommends the adoption of these regulations. Also, ACE NY and United support the incorporation of California's Heavy-Duty Low Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) Omnibus and Phase 2 Greenhouse Gas standards, which requires medium and heavy-duty engine manufacturers to sell new, cleaner vehicles that meet more stringent NOx and particulate matter emissions standards, beginning with engine model year 2026.

ACE NY is a not-for-profit membership organization with a mission to promote the use of clean, renewable electricity technologies, energy efficiency, and the electrification of transportation in New York State, in order to increase energy diversity and security, boost economic development, improve public health, and reduce air pollution.

United is a national association of businesses that are making the energy we use secure, clean, and affordable. United works to accelerate the move to 100% clean energy and electrified transportation in the U.S. Advanced energy encompasses a broad range of products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting our energy needs today and tomorrow. These include energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, and the smart grid. United represents more than 100 companies in the \$238 billion U.S. advanced energy industry, which employs 3.3 million U.S. workers, including 157,000 individuals in the Empire State.

In New York, as the DEC well knows, transportation is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.¹ It also significantly contributes to harmful air pollutants, which adversely impacts public health. In 2015, transportation pollution cost New Yorker over \$7.9 billion in health costs including premature deaths, heart attacks, asthma, emergency room visits and lost workdays.² Moreover, tailpipe emissions from the sector, especially from medium- and heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses disproportionately impacts environmental justice communities.³

For all these reasons, ACE NY and United support New York's adoption of a comprehensive regulatory framework to reduce pollution from transportation and fulfill the goals of the New York's climate law, the Climate Action and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). A major step to meeting our Climate Law goals is New York's adoption of California's regulations for zero-emission passenger cars, pickup trucks, and SUVs, as well as the Heavy-Duty Low NOx Omnibus rules.

For many years, New York State policies have been consistent with California's zero emission standards. The ACC II and Omnibus rules will further stimulate market development and investment in electric vehicles (EVs) and charging infrastructure throughout New York State. This will hasten widespread EV adoption by New Yorkers. Transportation electrification is a critical piece of the overall strategy to transition to this clean energy future. In addition to the CLCPA goals, New York has a target of having 850,000 zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2025 and 2 million by 2030. However, as of January 2023, the state is only 9%⁴ of the way to meeting this goal.

By promoting the transition to ZEVs, these regulations will minimize criteria pollutants from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. This will improve air quality and yield public health benefits, in particular for low-income and communities of color adjacent to ports, highways, and other transportation infrastructure that have been unduly burdened by diesel vehicle emissions. The American Lung Association estimates that transportation electrification can yield significant public health benefits saving the New York over \$4 billion in health impact costs and avoiding 351 premature deaths, 5,000 by asthma attacks, and 18,735 workdays lost in 2050.⁵

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on NY's adoption of California's ACC II and Omnibus Heavy-Duty Low NOx Standards. ACE NY and United look forward to continuing to work with the DEC to achieve the state's emission reduction targets and secure a clean and equitable transportation sector future for New York.

Sincerely,



¹ The transportation sector accounts for 28% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions in New York State.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/99223.html>

² Holmes-Gen, B and W. Barrett, *Clean Air Future: Health and Climate Benefits of Zero Emission Vehicles*, American Lung Association in California (October 2016), <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/b4231b57-878c-4263-8c2b-8c4cb80d86ca/2016zeroemissions.pdf.pdf>

³ Union of Concerned Scientists, *Inequitable Exposure to Air Pollution from Vehicles in New York State* (June 21, 2019), <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2019/06/Inequitable-Exposure-to-Vehicle-Pollution-NY.pdf>

⁴ As of January 3, 2023, New York had 75,051 registered electric vehicles on the road, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/ChargeNY/Support-Electric/Map-of-EV-Registrations>

⁵ American Lung Association, *The Road to Clean Air: Benefits of a Nationwide Transition to Electric Vehicles* (September 2020), <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/99cc945c-47f2-4ba9-ba59-14c311ca332a/electric-vehicle-report.pdf>

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