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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Public Hearing by the Environmental Quality Board on the proposed rule changed to PA's Clean Vehicles Program.

I support the proposed amendments to the rules governing the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program. I also support full implementation of the Clean Vehicles Program as recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The federal Clean Air Act requires Pennsylvania to cut pollution from cars and trucks, and the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program are necessary to do that. This is critical because people are driving more miles in bigger cars with declining fuel efficiency. Federal standards pertaining to low emission vehicles don't go far enough to improve Pennsylvania's ability to comply with the Clean Air Act. The Department of Environmental Protection estimates that the PA program will reduce vehicle emissions 6-11% over and above the federal standards. This is a significant difference and there is no cost for the consumer. There are 37 counties in PA with smog pollution that is higher than allowed by health-based federal standards. I live in Lancaster County which is one of the 37 counties with this problem. Unless we reduce vehicle emissions, there will be no room for industry to expand in these counties. Other states that meet federal standards are out-competing PA for jobs and growth. Vehicles that are CA-LEV compliant (that is those modeled on the California Low-Emission Vehicle standards), are not more expensive than vehicles that meet the federal Low Emission Vehicle Standards. Clean cars are more fuel-efficient than heavy polluters, and gasoline is expensive. We all know that gasoline prices will keep increasing. Cleaner vehicles will benefit the more than one million Pennsylvanians who suffer from breathing problems that result from or are exacerbated by air pollution. The American Lung Association of PA has reported that children who live in communities with high concentrations of ozone, acid vapor, nitrogen dioxide and particulate pollution are at a greater risk of developing chronic breathing problems due to poor lung development than children who live in less polluted areas. 10 other states have already adopted the CA Low-Emission Vehicle standards. Joining them would allow PA to reduce emissions while remaining economically competitive in the region. Action is required to combat global warming and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a critical part of that. With the proposed amendments to the Clean Vehicles Program rules, we could see our greenhouse gas emissions from new cars and trucks reduced by as much as 30%, all at little or no cost to us as consumers. This measure is an easy and cost effective way to improve our air quality and the health of our planet. We owe it to ourselves and to our future to support it.