

Environmental Quality Board Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 –Broomall  
PA Clean Vehicle Program Amendments  
Testimony of Annie Leary



Good morning, my name is Annie Leary, and I live in center city Philadelphia. Thank you for hearing my testimony today. As an active Pennsylvania citizen, I am here to express my support for all of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program (*including the postponement of the compliance date from model year 2006 to model year 2008 and deletion of definitions such as NLEV and others which are no longer relevant*). Approving these amendments and implementing the Clean Vehicle Program will allow Pennsylvania citizens more choices in choosing cars and trucks that give off less smog and global warming pollution, and reduce the threat these pollutants have on public health.

I will begin by stating the obvious. Smog and ozone pollution are man made and they are proven to be dangerous to public health and to be a threat to our environment. We have the technology to make cleaner cars and we should be taking a proactive approach in controlling and reducing emissions from cars and trucks as much as that technology allows. Pennsylvania contributes more greenhouse gases to earth's atmosphere than 105 other nations combined. With the proposed amendments to the Clean Vehicle Program we can cut smog pollution by an estimated 10% and global warming pollution by an estimated 25%. Not only do greenhouse gases contribute to global warming, but smog pollution can exacerbate asthma and other respiratory illness in some of our most sensitive citizens.

I am an active person and am thankful that I do not suffer from asthma. According to a study done by the PA Department of Health, the unfortunate reality is that 9% of Pennsylvanian's do suffer from asthma. Carrying an asthma inhaler has become as common for school kids as carrying their lunch boxes. Actually you could say that carrying an asthma inhaler is as common as a county in Pennsylvania being out of attainment for federal air quality standards. It is outrageous that the majority of people in this room today probably live in a county that is not currently meeting federal air quality standards as I do. Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Chester, and 33 other counties in PA do not currently meet federal air quality standards. This is unacceptable. Approving the proposed amendments to the PA Clean Vehicle Program is one way to help Southeastern PA move towards attaining federal air quality standards.

I have lived in the Philadelphia area for just over a year and so far, Southeastern PA has everything I want, everything except poor air quality. I plan on having children some day and I have to say, that raising a family in a place where my children are more susceptible to asthma attacks or respiratory illnesses is scary. According to research by the World Health Organization, car exhaust leads to more deaths than car accidents. This a huge red flag for me and I know that I am not the only person who feels this way. Other states that meet federal standards are out-competing Pennsylvania for jobs and growth and I can

understand why. Quality of life is not just the money you make or the home you live in, it is the air you breathe and the water you drink. We deserve to make PA a cleaner state, where we can boast about our quality of life. This is good for the economy and good for public health.

NY, NJ, and ten other states have adopted similar programs, and Pennsylvanian's deserve the same thing. We all have the right to breathe clean air and live in a state where our state agencies, state officials, representatives, and senators are fighting first and foremost for public health and the right to breathe clean air. It's important that the Environmental Quality Board approve all the DEP's proposed amendments to the PA Clean Vehicle program and bring PA to the forefront for protecting and promoting public health.

On a different note, I want to be sure to state for the record that I have been a member of AAA for the past 10 years. I am disappointed and outraged that AAA has lobbied and testified against the PA Clean Vehicle Program and the proposed amendments. As a ten year member, I would like to state that AAA does not, in any way, represent my interests or my beliefs. I have expressed this to them in writing, but wanted to be sure to include that on the record here today.

In summary, we all deserve clean air to breath clean air and we all deserve a chance to make Pennsylvania a safer and cleaner place for people to raise families and be proud of the quality of life their community offers. I urge you to protect public health, help save consumers money at the pump, and improve the quality of life in PA by approving all of the DEP's proposed amendments to the Clean Vehicle Program.

Thank you.

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