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January 29, 2025

Representative John Lively
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE H-481
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chairman Lively:

On behalf of the 17,000 members of the American Thoracic Society, I strongly urge you and the Oregon legislature to move forward with adopting the Advanced Clean Truck standard developed by California. The health of the Oregon people and the health of planet are relying on you to take this action.

We understand the trucking industry in Oregon is urging the legislature to delay adoption of the California clean truck standard. The trucking industry provides an essential and valuable service by providing for the efficient transport of goods and services through the state. They are not the villains in this policy struggle.

But there are victims. The victims include communities who live near major roadways and distribution centers that are exposed to dangerously high levels of air pollution. The victims include the patients that ATS members in Oregon and across the US treat who have severe lung diseases like asthma, COPD, sarcoidosis and pulmonary fibrosis. Air pollution from trucks, including particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen oxides, makes patients sick – leading to missed school days and day from work, asthma attacks, emergency room visits, hospitalizations and tragically premature death. For patients with lung disease, air pollution is not an inconvenience, it is literally a threat to their life.

There is no reasonable debate that vehicle tailpipe emissions are a significant source of air pollution and that air pollution both causes respiratory and cardiovascular disease and for those who already have underlying respiratory and cardiovascular disease, air pollution makes them sicker.

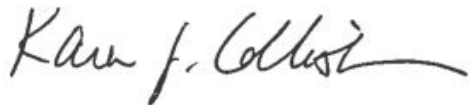
In 2023 there were an estimated 3.3 million electric vehicles on the road in the U.S. and in 2024 an additional 1.5 million more new electric vehicles were sold. With nearly 5 million electric vehicles on the road, electric vehicles are no longer an experimental technology, they are an essential and growing component of the U.S. transportation infrastructure. Trucks in general and fleet

vehicles in particular are well suited for transitioning into electric fleets.

In November of 2024 the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality launched its Climate Protection Program and committed to reducing carbon emissions by ninety percent by 2050. The American Thoracic Society applauds the essential climate goal but cautions that Oregon will never meet its environmental commitments unless it commits to take bold action now to transition to carbon free transportation options.

Again, the American Thoracic Society urges the Oregon legislature to reject legislation to delay adoption and implementation of California Advanced Clean Truck standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen J. Collishaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen J. Collishaw, MPP, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
American Thoracic Society



ATS

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