

Brenda Bard

Dear Mr. Adam Saul, Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the Department of Ecology (Ecology) adopting Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII), the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx rule, and the fleet reporting requirement this year in Washington. These rules are critical to reduce air pollution, improve public health, protect frontline communities, and increase access to the benefits of electricity as a transportation fuel. Over four million people in Washington live or work near diesel exhaust, and Black people, Indigenous people, People of Color and low-income people are disproportionately burdened by polluted air. Exposure to toxic tailpipe pollution such as NOx, Particulate Matter (PM), and Ozone is linked to higher rates of premature death, cancer, heart disease, and breathing problems like asthma in kids and adults. On top of the climate benefits, adopting ACCII allows zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) to be more accessible and affordable for consumers and saves them money in fuel and maintenance with the typical cost of electricity for charging an EV equivalent to \$1 per gallon of gasoline. In addition to ACCII, the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx rule and the fleet reporting requirement will help Washington experience statewide health benefits and identify trucking operations that would provide the greatest relief in air pollution exposure to overburdened communities. I am counting on Ecology to lead the transition into an all-electric future and by doing so, ensure an equitable and just transportation future for Washington! I'm counting on promoting and supporting getting off the freeways entirely!! We are building light rail and better bussing. Let's move in that direction, too. I appreciate that Black and indigenous populations suffer disproportionately. BUT I can also speak to personal experience. When I moved to Kirkland there were 4 lanes to I-405, now there are 10 that pass by my home. When I moved in gardening and housecleaning was a joy, not so much as the years passed. My hands turn to black grime working in the yard and cleaning windows and sills produce the same jet black grime. Scary! And in the spring and summer when we should be able to sleep with windows open, I have to get up in the summer and shut the window because the smell is so bad from the freeway. I don't have a furnace system that supports hepa filtration. How shortened is my life to benefit commuters who don't give a hoot about me as they drive through my neighborhood, splitting my community. I strongly support the proposed Clean Vehicles Program rule and thank Ecology for its hard work. And I thank all who work towards improving a healthier future for all. Sincerely, Brenda Bard 10922 NE 66th PI Kirkland, WA 98033