AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.

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To: Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
From: Rebecca Ryan, Sr. Director, Health Education & Public Policy
Subj: Electric Vehicles and Health Benefits (S.271)

Transportation Health/Environmental Impacts

- The transportation sector is now the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and the dominant contributor to smog-forming NOx emissions.
- This is also true for Vermont – our fossil-fueled transportation system is the leading source of harmful pollutants that threaten our health and our environment.
- More than 68,000 children and adults in Vermont have asthma and over 30,000 Vermonters have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD – health challenges that becomes more difficult as climate change impacts increase the conditions for unhealthy air.
- Vehicle emissions are well known threat to public health, including the Health Effects Institutes comprehensive review of near-roadway pollution impacts:
    - *It concluded that traffic pollution causes asthma attacks in children, and may cause a wide range of other effects including: the onset of childhood asthma, impaired lung function, premature death and death from cardiovascular diseases, and cardiovascular morbidity.* (Quoted from SOTA page)

The American Lung Association Report

- Our 2016 "Clean Air Future" report found that the passenger vehicle fleet in Vermont contributed approximately $350 million in health and climate change impacts.
    - These impacts come in the form of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, lost work days and other respiratory and cardiovascular health impacts.
- It is important to note that when we looked at the costs associated with our dependence on fossil fuels for transportation, we found that our everyday choices are having negative impacts.

Per Vehicle Metrics

- We estimate that the average gasoline car contributes over $600 per year in health and climate impacts based on our study results.
- On a more personal level, our research found that each 16-gallon tank of gas contributes $18.42 in health and climate change impacts, or roughly $1.15 per gallon.
- These figures illustrate that more consumer awareness, more consumer incentives and more consumer choices are critical to ensuring our clean air future.
- Supporting the transition to zero emission vehicles is a key public health priority.
- **The Good News:** Our report found that Vermont could avoid $313 million in health and climate damages through the transition to 100% ZEV Sales in the coming decades.

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Saving lives, avoiding asthma attacks and lost work days, hospital visits, heart attacks and more.

Vermont's Good Actions on ZEVs

- Vermont has taken impressive leadership steps in the drive for a clean air future.
- Our state has pushed forward with investing in Zero Emission Technologies to ensure that our air remains healthy and our climate remains sustainable for our children and grandchildren.
- Vermont is partnering with other like-minded states in goals to put millions of ZEVs on the roads.
- Our utilities are working to expand the use of Zero Emission Vehicles (https://www.driveelectricvt.com/)
- The Vermont ZEV Action Plan (2014, P.4) got it right: "Accelerating the ZEV market will help states protect public health and the environment by reducing transportation-related air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, enhancing energy diversity, saving consumers money, and promoting economic growth."

Federal Clean Cars Rollback

- As our federal government considers rolling back our national clean car standards, it is important that Vermont continue down the path to clean air and a stable climate.

If you have any questions, please contact me at rebecca.ryan@lung.org or 876-6862. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.