

**Testimony of
GENEVIEVE GALE, POLICY ASSOCIATE, CENTRAL VALLEY AIR QUALITY COALITION**

on
September 24, 2018
for

Clean Cars Hearings

Docket Identification Nos. [EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0283 & NHTSA-2018-0067]

at
The Grand 1401
1401 Fulton Street
Fresno, California 93721

My name is Genevieve Gale, I live in Fresno, CA, and I am Policy Associate with Central Valley Air Quality Coalition.

The Central Valley Air Quality Coalition – known as CVAQ - is a partnership of over 70 public health, environmental and environmental justice groups all committed to the pursuit of clean and healthy air for San Joaquin Valley residents. This region is the most polluted air basin in the nation for fine particle pollution, and we suffer alongside the Los Angeles air basin with high ozone summers. We are home to the highest childhood asthma rates in the nation.

CVAQ represents the Valley's asthmatic children who can't go outside to play during recess. We represent the elderly that have to wear face masks just to go grocery shopping. We represent those with heart and lung disease, the farmworkers and the outdoor workers, and those who have lost loved ones too early. And I represent myself, who has to check the air quality every day to see if it's safe to ride my bike to work. It's not safe today, and it wasn't safe yesterday or the day before.

CVAQ would like to express our strong opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's proposed repeal of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy - or CAFE - fuel standards and revocation of California's fuel economy waiver.

A repeal of these standards and revocation of our waiver will undoubtedly lead to more air pollution in this Valley and in the state. CVAQ has been working diligently with local, state and federal agencies to devise a plan that will bring this Valley into attainment of federal health standards for fine particle pollution. We just now found a path forward to clean air. But with a repeal of this magnitude, we and this region will be set back. This means more asthma attacks, more heart attacks, and more premature deaths, for no good reason.

Moreover, these proposed actions will severely undermine California's ability to reduce potent greenhouse gases. Valley residents already suffer from impacts linked to climate change, such as severe drought, increased wildfires and wildfire smoke inhalation and increased ozone pollution. Our overburdened basin cannot afford additional and unnecessary climate and air pollution.

For these reasons, we believe the CAFE standards and California's waiver should not be repealed, but continued.