

UNITED STATES
**CLIMATE
ALLIANCE**

The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

September 16, 2024

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0589

Dear Administrator Regan,

I write to you on behalf of the U.S. Climate Alliance (Alliance), a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors committed to climate action that together represent approximately 60 percent of the U.S. economy and 55 percent of the U.S. population. The Alliance appreciates the opportunity to comment on California's request for a waiver under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation, which states can leverage to advance our shared goals to confront the climate crisis, reduce harmful air pollution, advance environmental justice, and protect public health. The Alliance has long supported state flexibility in the CAA that permits California to adopt, and allows other states and territories to follow, regulations that can be more protective of public health and welfare than applicable federal standards. We strongly support approval of California's ACF regulation, which was promulgated consistent with CAA requirements,¹ and encourage EPA to grant the waiver as requested by California without delay.

Transportation remains the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions across the Alliance. We agree with the Biden-Harris administration that a rapid deployment of zero-emission technologies across all transportation modes must be a central component of the U.S. Long-Term Strategy to confront the climate crisis.² Importantly, ACF sets requirements for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles that can help achieve these goals. Granting this waiver will ensure California and other Alliance members who choose to adopt ACF can continue to lead on transportation decarbonization — driving reductions in transportation emissions at the state level while ensuring the U.S. does not fall behind in our national efforts to limit global warming.

California's ACF is expected to significantly reduce harmful nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter,³ improving public health for tens of millions of residents in the state. For other Alliance members,⁴ granting the waiver would provide a critical new mechanism that states and territories can use in supporting compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards and protecting public health in their jurisdictions. Emissions reductions achieved from the rule are expected to avoid premature deaths, hospitalizations for cardiovascular illness, hospitalizations for respiratory illness, and emergency room visits, yielding billions in health benefits.³ It also advances environmental justice by reducing disproportionate exposure to vehicle pollution concentrated in frontline communities, particularly those near ports, freight logistics hubs, and major freight corridors.³

Historic investments under the Inflation Reduction Act and other federal actions have already spurred more than \$175 billion domestically in private sector investments in EVs and batteries.⁵ This, along with adoption of the Advanced Clean Truck rule by 11 Alliance states,⁶ has helped expand the marketplace for zero-emission trucks, which grew by more than 500 percent year-over-year in 2023⁷ and now offers over 120 models for purchase.⁸ ACF can provide an important tool for states and territories to continue supporting this market growth and technological innovation in American manufacturing, helping reduce fuel and maintenance costs for businesses and mitigate their exposure to volatile fuel prices along the way.

The Alliance stands firmly in support of California's authority as permitted under the CAA to set its own vehicle emission standards, as well as the authority of other states and territories to voluntarily adopt those

standards. Such regulations can play a vital role in states' ability to improve air quality, protect public health, advance environmental justice, and tackle climate change. California's waiver request meets the conditions required by the law, and the state's promulgation of ACF is consistent with the requirements of the CAA. We support approval of the waiver as requested by California without delay.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for the Biden-Harris administration's collaboration with states and territories to confront the climate crisis.

Sincerely,



Casey Katims
Executive Director
U.S. Climate Alliance

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 7543 (2010), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2010-title42/pdf/USCODE-2010-title42-chap85-subchapII-partA-sec7543.pdf>. (accessed September 13, 2024)

² U.S. Department of State and the Executive Office of the President, *The Long-Term Strategy of the United States: Pathways to Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050* (Washington, DC), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/US-Long-Term-Strategy.pdf>. (accessed September 13, 2024)

³ California Air Resources Board, *Public Hearing to Consider the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations: Final Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking, Including Summary of Comments and Agency Response* (CARB, Sacramento, CA), <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2022/acf22/ac/acffsor.pdf>. (accessed September 13, 2024)

⁴ Including Vermont, which is in the Ozone Transport Region, but excluding Hawaii.

⁵ The White House, Investing in America, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/invest/>. (accessed September 13, 2024)

⁶ Including California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

⁷ CALSTART, *Zeroing in on ZETs: May 2024 Market Update*, <https://calstart.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ZIO-ZET-May-2024-Market-Update-Final.pdf>. (accessed September 13, 2024)

⁸ U.S. Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center, *Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle Search*, https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/search/results?view_mode=grid&search_field=vehicle&search_dir=desc&per_page=8¤t=true&display_length=25&model_year=2024&fuel_id=9,41,57,-1&category_id=9,33,17,11,7,13,3,5,1,-1&manufacturer_id=493,67,205,117,394,495,415,201,113,5,408,481,9,13,11,458,81,435,474,57,416,141,197,417,121,475,53,397,418,85,414,17,21,143,403,476,492,23,484,398,27,477,399,31,396,489,107,465,487,193,460,35,459,115,37,147,480,199,-1. (accessed September 13, 2024)