



Heavy Duty Trucks EPA Hearing May 2nd and 3rd Volunteer Action Toolkit

Welcome! This toolkit will walk you through how to advocate for a strong Heavy Duty Rule from the EPA through hearing testimony, public comments, social media, and more. We will update the toolkit as more information is available.

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Questions? Concerns? Email: Rebekah.Whilden@sierraclub.org

Introduction

We believe that everyone has a right to clean air - and that our fight for humanity begins when our journey as one becomes a movement for all.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed heavy-duty truck standards are a step in the right direction, but are insufficient to address a huge problem: the persistence of deadly pollution in our air. It misses the mark and doesn't adequately slash pollution, protect public health or prevent premature deaths. President

Biden's EPA—led by Administrator Michael Regan—must now set the strongest science-based standards to ensure cleaner air for families, advance environmental justice, and protect our health.

How to Testify

Sign up to testify

Sierra Club is collecting sign-ups and sending them directly to the EPA for the May 2nd and 3rd hearings. Once your information has been received by the EPA you will receive a confirmation email from them. [Fill out this form to register!](#)

[If you'd rather provide only written comments you can do so here!](#)

Tips for Your Testimony

[Here are the slides](#) from our How-To-Testify workshop on April 23! If you'd like to view the recording, you can do that using [this link](#).

- **Please keep your comments no more than 3 mins long:** all testimony will be limited to this timeframe.
 - **Remember this formula: 1 minute = 150 words**
 - Your 3 minute comments should not exceed 450 words
 - Write your comments down and practice them in front of the mirror or in front of friends and family. Remember to time yourself!
- **Make it personal:**
 - **Use your comments to add the human face to the need for a stronger heavy-duty truck rule**
 - Express your **personal concerns** about why we need stronger pollution standards for trucks and buses. How does this **impact your community?** What are the health risks to you and your family/friends?
- **Consider using visuals:** You can bring photos or other visuals to the hearing to help you tell your story.
 - Some **examples of great visuals** from past hearings include:
 - Pictures of a place threatened by air pollution.
 - Family portraits of family members who suffer from the ill effects of air pollution or who you care about having a clean air future.
 - Bringing your children with you as you testify.
 - Asthma inhalers, medicine bottles, healthcare bills, and medication for air-pollution related illnesses
- **Include a few key facts:**
 - Sierra Club has sample [talking points](#) on the importance of strengthening the heavy-duty rule. Pick one or two statistics to frame your personal comments.
 - **Don't worry about highly technical information. Our organizations will convey the wonky stuff to the agency. You're there to tell YOUR story!**

- **Preparing for a virtual space:**

- Be aware of your background. Are there distractions in your camera's view? Is the area you're speaking from quiet enough? How is your internet or phone signal? If you are Zoom savvy, you can change your background to be blurred.
- Arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled time to speak.
- Consider downloading Zoom ahead of time and perhaps do a practice meeting with yourself to see how your computer or phone interfaces. You can practice muting and unmuting yourself and turning on and off your camera.

I am/ We are	I am / we are _____.	<i>I live in North Carolina, I'm an environmental activist, and i love to garden, and build community with neighbors and friends</i>
Values/Vision	I/we value _____ and are working toward _____.	<i>I value a world where everyone can thrive, with clean air, clean water, good food, supportive community, and a safe climate.</i>
The Moment	Right now _____.	<i>Right now, I'm concerned about us averting the worst of the climate crisis. We must do all we can, in all sectors of society to reduce emissions, increase equity and advance environmental justice. I have dedicated my career to this... In recent years, I've gotten solar panels on my roof, I've bought an EV, I'm doing all I can and I want our government to as well.</i>
Problem	But _____ stands in the way.	<i>But one huge hurdle is the transportation sector, and one the dirtiest of sources -- big trucks. Such pollution effects those living near highways -- that have historically segregated communities,...</i>
Solution	We can _____ to get what we want.	<i>One way to clean up our highways, is stronger limits on greenhouse gas emissions from trucks; taking advantage of the zero-emission and more efficient trucks on the market.</i>
Action	[Call to action]	<i>I call on the EPA to strengthen the Heavy-Duty Trucks rule for healthier communities, protect public health and our climate.</i>

Zoom Basics



Click the phone icon to mute and unmute yourself
Click the camera icon to turn on and off your video

Writing Comments

To submit a written comment to EPA directly, use these instructions:

If you're unable to participate in EPA's virtual public hearings, you can still submit written comments to EPA! Please visit the [Sierra Club's AddUp comment page](#) to edit our suggested comment.

If your comments are longer than the AddUp page will allow, you can [submit your comments directly to the EPA using this site](#). Please send an email to Rebekah.Whilden@sierraclub.org to let her know.

Talking Points for the Heavy Duty Hearing

- In 2020, the transportation sector contributed 27 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States—more than any other single sector.
- Climate and air pollution from freight trucks is a major threat to public health. We commend President Biden and EPA Administrator Regan for recognizing the urgent need to cut this dangerous pollution.
- Freight truck pollution harms everyone, but especially those who live near highways, ports, freight hubs and other high traffic areas. Pollution from trucks contributes to lethal particulate and ozone pollution that threatens the health of millions of Americans.
- Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change, which poses threats to Americans' health and well-being, affecting everything from the air we breathe to the places we live. Extreme weather events caused by climate change create more air and water pollution, destabilize food sources, and put our homes and lives at risk.
- In order to protect the health of our communities and reduce the GHG pollution causing dangerous and costly climate change, the EPA must ensure HDV rules are as strong as possible and reflect major advancements in zero-emission technologies.

Looking for the Light Duty vehicle talking points? [Here you go!](#)

WHAT'S NEXT

- More work must be done to ensure that the strongest possible heavy-duty truck pollution standards are finalized by the EPA.
- We look forward to a robust public comment period where environmental justice communities, Tribes, advocacy organizations, businesses, industry, and state and local governments can weigh in and make their voices heard.
- The EPA must move quickly to finalize the strongest limits on heavy-duty vehicles as soon as possible.
- Every day that passes without these protections is a missed opportunity to protect our health, advance environmental justice, and reduce other dangerous pollution from these sources. Our communities deserve action now.

Ways to Amplify Your Story

Social Media

Post on social media. You can share how the hearing went by posting on social media and tagging the EPA and your legislators. Include your photos or screenshots of yourself testifying. To engage with EPA decision makers, tag @EPA and @EPAMichaelRegan. You also should tag @SierraClub and use the hashtags #CleanerTrucks or #CleanAirAct.

Social media guidance and graphics to come!

Letters to the Editor

Share your story. We encourage you to talk to your friends or neighbors about your experience. You can even write a [letter to the editor](#) of a local paper about testifying at the hearing, why this issue is important to you, and why it is important for the EPA to put in place a strong heavy-duty truck rule.

Chapter Newsletters

Please help CTFA enlist support from local staff, partners and volunteers by including [this draft blurb and information](#) in your newsletters, social media, or elsewhere. Feel free to edit as you see fit!

Additional Policy Information

Looking for more information? Check out our additional resources here!

- Sierra Club Press Statement (April 12, 2023): [Environmental Protection Agency Proposes Strengthening Vehicle Pollution Standards](#)
 - Tweet: <https://twitter.com/SierraClub/status/1646143220307599360>
- Sierra Club blog: [Stronger Vehicle Standards Critical for Public Health and Climate](#)
 - Tweet: <https://twitter.com/katherinejulia/status/1648785983695990785?s=20>
- New York Times: [E.P.A. Lays Out Rules to Turbocharge Sales of Electric Cars and Trucks](#)
- [Heavy-duty Fact Sheet](#)