

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

by
Nancy Alderman, President

In support of Bills 6030 and 6031

To the Chairs of The Energy and Technology Committee: Senator Doyle and Representative Reed,

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in strong support of the 2 Bills to adopt zero emission vehicle incentives: Bill 6030 and Bill 6031.

Why it is important that the state adopted incentives for zero emission cars.

Most people assume that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sufficiently protecting air quality by setting limits for chemicals released from vehicles, requiring newer engines to be less polluting, and restricting levels normally found in outdoor air.

It is clear, however, that these efforts are not enough to protect health, as they limit only a small percentage of all chemicals that are emitted from engines, leaving hundreds of pollutants unmonitored and unregulated. While the government monitors pollutants at fixed stations, these measurements bear little resemblance to the pollution you and your family experience while moving through daily life.

EPA also requires that measured concentrations of regulated pollutants be averaged over long periods of time to determine compliance with standards. Particulate matter, for example, is averaged over three years, and this practice masks high-pollution episodes of short duration that can damage health.

Although we have grown to accept the smell of engine exhaust as a part of everyday life, our nation is experiencing an epidemic of illnesses made worse by air pollution.

Over the past ten years, hundreds of studies have been published in the peer-reviewed literature demonstrating special vulnerability to air pollution among those with serious illnesses, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and lung cancer.

Tens of millions of Americans suffer from these illnesses. Children, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, and those with specific genetic traits are at special risk. We estimate that hundreds of thousands of Connecticut's residents are at heightened risk due to these background illnesses. During the past decade, scientists have also confirmed a relationship between two forms of pollution—ozone and particulate matter—and increased rates of mortality, especially among those with cardiovascular disease.

Most of Connecticut's growth during the past 50 years has occurred in suburban and rural regions, increasing the population's dependence on personal vehicles. More than three million vehicles are registered in a state with only 3.5 million residents. Many people assume that their individual contributions are insignificant, yet the collective effect is damaging to health.

Please look favorably on these 2 important Bills that will help reduce vehicle pollution in our State.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
February 7, 2015