

February 24, 2016

Environment Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Testimony in Support of HB5318, An Act Concerning Idling in Excess of Three Minutes by  
Certain Trucks and Buses**

Dear Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Ruth Canovi. I am the Manager of Public Policy for the American Lung Association in Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to support HB5318, An Act Concerning Idling in Excess of Three Minutes by Certain Trucks and Buses. The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary health organization in the nation and our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

The American Lung Association supports policies aiming to help Connecticut residents breathe healthy air and reduce the burden of lung disease that air pollution places on our residents and our health care system. Emissions from vehicles lead to all three of the criteria pollutants that the Lung Association tracks in its annual State of the Air Report – ozone, year round particle pollution and short term particle pollution. In our 2015 report, six of eight counties in Connecticut earned an F for ozone, while Litchfield and Windham earned a C. While we fare better in particle pollution, there is still much work to be done to protect our health.<sup>1</sup>

In 2013, the World Health Organization classified air pollution as carcinogenic. The general public, especially children, elderly and people with lung disease are especially at risk for the myriad of adverse health effects linked to air pollution including shortness of breath, coughing, inflammation and damage to airways and aggravation of lung disease like asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Air pollution can also increase frequency of asthma attacks and susceptibility to infection. Evidence also points to ozone causing cardiovascular damage and an increase in the risk of low birth weight babies.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> State of the Air Report 2015. American Lung Association. <http://www.stateoftheair.org/2015/states/connecticut>

<sup>2</sup> Ozone and Your Health. Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/ozone-c.pdf>

The American Lung Association supports policies that improve the quality of the air we breathe. We know that “mobile source pollution accounts for approximately fifty percent of all air pollution emitted in Connecticut...”<sup>3</sup> Idling emits these gases at much higher rates than if vehicles are moving. In fact, “an idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling at 30 miles per hour.”<sup>4</sup>

The 3 minute idling limit is one that we in Connecticut currently adhere to under our Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regulations and is enforceable by DEEP and EPA. HB5318 adds some additional exceptions to the 3 minute idling limit and turns the administrative regulation into a statute enforceable by law enforcement.

HB5318 provides an opportunity to further Connecticut’s great work to reduce emissions and improve our air quality, not only for future generations, but also to improve the health of our residents now.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ruth Canovi, MPH  
Manager, Public Policy  
American Lung Association of the Northeast

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<sup>3</sup> CT Low Emission Vehicles II. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.  
<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=2684&Q=398686>

<sup>4</sup> Anti-Idling Efforts in Connecticut. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.  
[http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=322086&deepNav\\_GID=1619](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=322086&deepNav_GID=1619)