

Testimony of the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management

California Air Resources Board Hearing for the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) Regulations

August 25, 2022

Good morning. My name is Jeremy Hunt, and I am a Policy Advisor and Analyst at the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management, or NESCAUM. NESCAUM is the regional nonprofit association of state air quality agencies in the six New England states, New Jersey, and New York and has a long history of working with states throughout the country on adopting and implementing California's motor vehicle emission standards.

I am speaking today in strong support of the proposed Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) regulations and urge the Board to adopt the regulations.

To date, seventeen states have exercised their authority under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act to adopt California's Advanced Clean Cars standards, which has resulted in improved air quality and public health outcomes in our states.

Like California, the Section 177 states have set ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2050 and interim reduction targets by 2030. And across the Section 177 states, light-duty vehicles are a major contributor to emissions of criteria air pollutants that worsen public health outcomes.

The ACC II regulations, which rapidly increase sales of light-duty vehicles to 100 percent zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) by the 2035 model year and reduce smog-forming emissions from new internal combustion engine vehicles, are vital for Section 177 states to achieve their climate and air quality goals. The proposed ZEV assurance measures will lead to the production of high-quality electric vehicles, ensure the long-lasting emissions benefits of these vehicles, and support the development of a robust used ZEV market, which will help to advance equitable access to clean mobility solutions and corresponding emissions reductions in low-income and frontline communities. In addition, the proposed compliance flexibilities provide automakers with numerous pathways for compliance, while building support needed for Section 177 states to adopt ACC II.

In closing, we thank California for its continued strong leadership to protect the environment and public health from motor vehicle pollution, and for putting us on the path to a zero-emission transportation sector. NESCAUM and the Section 177 states look forward to our ongoing partnership with the State of California.

Thank you.