



TO: Colorado House Energy & Environment Committee
FROM: Nick Torres – Director, Advocacy
Nick.Torres@Lung.org (303) 847-0267
DATE: March 20, 2024
SUBJECT: Support for House Bill 24-1341

The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health association in the United States, currently representing the more than 36 million Americans living with lung diseases, including more than 700,000 Coloradans living with chronic lung diseases like COPD and asthma.

The American Lung Association strongly supports empowering local jurisdictions with authority to act on a variety of public health policies. We thank Representatives Marvin and Willford for sponsoring legislation to eliminate state preemption of this local public health authority regarding vehicle idling standards.

House Bill 24-1341 would restore local authority for vehicle idling standards of commercial diesel vehicles, making the state standard a floor, rather than a ceiling.

The transportation sector is a leading source of unhealthy air in our state. The health burdens of this air pollution include increased asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer and premature death. These poor health outcomes are not shared equitably, with many communities of color and lower income communities at greater risk due to increased exposure to transportation pollution.

Diesel exhaust is particularly concerning. Diesel emissions contain a variety of toxics: nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene. Diesel engine exhaust is carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.¹

Air pollution impacts the health of everyone, especially seniors, children, and individuals with pre-existing conditions. House Bill 24-1341 would allow local authorities to respond to the air quality and public health needs of their communities by addressing diesel exhaust from idling commercial diesel vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 14,000 pounds or higher.

The American Lung Association supports House Bill 24-1341 and asks for the Committee's favorable consideration.

¹ https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr213_E.pdf