

November 26, 2024

Re: Senate Bill 3817/Assembly Bill 4967

Dear Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Diegnan Jr., Assemblyman Karabinchak, and Assemblyman Calabrese,

We, the undersigned, New Jersey organizations, businesses, and advocates for clean energy and environmental justice, urge you to protect New Jerseyans' health by preventing the advancement of Senate Bill 3817/Assembly Bill 4967.

This legislation will roll back the implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule set to go into effect in January 2025. The ACT rule, [adopted](#) by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2021, will accelerate a large-scale transition to zero-emission Medium and Heavy-Duty vehicles (MHD).

New Jersey is already experiencing the harms of climate change, and we must do all we can to reduce emissions, prioritize public health, and advance equity. Any unnecessary delay in ACT implementation will harm all New Jerseyans, in particular, low-income families and communities of color who are disproportionately impacted by a lifetime of air pollution.

Any delay in implementation is a step backwards in New Jersey's commitment to protecting the health of all New Jerseyans. Cars and trucks are the largest contributor to air pollution in our state. ACT provides a much-needed framework to alleviate the environmental burden of our transportation sector. At the same time, it provides manufacturers with flexibility to gradually spur the manufacturing and deployment of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). The result is a structured, phased approach that supports both the practical needs of manufacturers and our environment.

There is no reason to delay ACT implementation, particularly given recent milestones in New Jersey's transition to electrify MHD fleets. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities recently [announced](#) the adoption of minimum filing requirements directing the state's investor-owned electric distribution companies to propose programs expanding charging access for MHD electric vehicles (EVs) and fleets. That same day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEP [announced](#) the arrival of nearly \$250 million to deploy EV charging infrastructure for commercial zero-emission MHD vehicles along the Interstate-95 freight corridor. DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette has also said that the state is fully prepared for ACT to go into effect in January. We are ready to charge forward.

The [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) states that any delay in ACT implementation will result in higher health costs and more avoidable premature deaths. If ACT is delayed until 2027 as the bills propose, New Jersey will face up to 24 premature deaths and up to \$373 million in additional healthcare costs. These harmful impacts can be avoided by implementing ACT as scheduled and preventing these bills from moving forward.

Diesel emissions from MHD trucks contribute to respiratory diseases, cardiovascular issues, and premature deaths. These health problems are not equally distributed throughout our state as they

are concentrated near major transit routes and industrial areas. These overburdened communities are disproportionately communities of color and low-income faced with higher rates of asthma, hospitalizations, and other adverse health effects than the rest of the state.

Exposure to diesel exhaust is also a huge occupational hazard for union and non-union drivers, port and warehouse workers. By accelerating the adoption of ZEVs in the trucking sector, ACT will be a life-saving diesel pollution policy, significantly reducing pollutants that harm the health of families and individuals. The transition to cleaner trucks is also an economic opportunity, promoting job growth in the clean energy and automotive sectors through the ZEV market and building the infrastructure needed statewide, positioning New Jersey at the forefront of sustainable innovation.

ACT not only drives innovation in the automotive industry but also fosters collaboration across sectors to achieve a sustainable, low-emission future. Together, we can create a transportation system that benefits public health while boosting our economy with safer jobs in the clean energy sector.

We strongly support ACT implementation and continuing this path towards a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable future. We respectfully urge you to not move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Action Together New Jersey
AFT New Jersey
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions
Bluewave NJ
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Clean Water Action
Climate Revolution Action Network
Clinicians for Climate Action New Jersey
Divest NJ
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
ECOS
EmpowerNJ
Environment New Jersey
Environmental Defense Fund
Fair Share Housing Center
Faith in New Jersey
Food & Water Watch
GreenFaith
Housing & Community Development Network of NJ
Indivisible Highland Park
Ironbound Community Corporation

Isles
Jersey Renews
Latino Action Network Foundation
Latino Institute, Inc.
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Make the Road New Jersey
NAACP New Jersey State Conference
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Jersey Organizing Project
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Progressive Equitable Energy Coalition
New Jersey Sierra Club
New Jersey Sustainable Business Council
New Labor
Newark Community Street Team
Newark Science and Sustainability Inc
NJ Citizen Action
NJ Future
NJ Public Interest Research Group
NJ Work Environment Council
Offshore Power, LLC
Regional Plan Association
Salvation and Social Justice
South Ward Environmental Alliance
The Nature Conservancy New Jersey
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Vote Solar
Waterspirit
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center
Working Families Alliance

CC: Governor Phil Murphy
DEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette
BPU President Christine Guhl-Sadovy