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Blackrock Consulting
Public Policy & Business Consulting



Highland



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Dear Governor Pritzker,

As a coalition of businesses with significant operations and investment in Illinois, we write to express our strong support for adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) and Heavy-Duty Omnibus (HDO) rules to accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles.

We recognize and applaud your leadership to make Illinois a climate leader and an international vehicle manufacturing powerhouse through enactment of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act of 2021 (CEJA) and the Reimagining Electric Vehicles Act of 2021 (REV Illinois) and we urge you to take these critical next steps to ensure that zero-emission vehicles are available to purchase in Illinois.

To further commit Illinois to an electrified transportation future, we encourage you to join states and governors around the country in committing to a clean transportation future by signing the Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Following through on MOU commitments by adopting the ACT and HDO rules will demonstrate regional and national leadership, deliver on campaign promises, and generate massive economic, public health, and environmental benefits for Illinois.

The ACT and HDO rules are cost-effective emission standards foundational to a clean transportation economy. The standards are two sides of the same coin; working together to bring more electric trucks to market while cutting pollution from fossil fuel trucks. The rules accomplish this by requiring manufacturers to sell an increasing number of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in Illinois while establishing strong yet feasible air pollution standards for new fossil fuel trucks.

Further, the MOU is a clear choice for states looking to lead in MHD electrification and is supported by the [Multi-State ZEV Action Plan](#) which provides straightforward policies to meet electrification goals.

The historic Inflation Reduction and Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Acts have allocated billions of dollars towards a long list of critical electrification policies and programs, including incentives for medium- and heavy-duty EVs and their charging infrastructure. Amidst these positive national trends, **state leadership is still crucial to transition our MHD vehicles away from oil, and vital to ensuring economic, climate, and national security.**

By swiftly enacting strong electrification policies, the state will accelerate the adoption of EVs and lead to other positive outcomes such as:

- **Increased Savings for Consumers:** With unpredictable and volatile fossil fuel prices across the state, electricity prices remain low and stable. Combined with the savings in maintenance and federal incentives for the purchase of EVs, EV infrastructure, and energy and charging management, EVs offer Illinois residents and businesses significant financial savings.
- **Improved National Security:** The mass adoption of EVs in our state is key to addressing our reliance on fossil fuels and the national security risks associated with powering 90% of our nation's transportation system with oil. Electricity can be generated within Illinois's borders, leading to improved national security, as well as new jobs in the electricity sector.
- **Improved Air Quality:** More than 9 million Illinois residents across 10 counties live in air quality nonattainment areas, and tailpipe exhaust is the leading source of harmful air pollution. With zero tailpipe pollution, EVs drastically improve air quality for all Illinois residents, especially those exposed to high levels of exhaust from trucks and buses, such as urban residents and rural students.
- **Reduced Carbon Emissions:** Transportation is Illinois's leading source of emissions. An accelerated adoption of EVs will reduce these emissions and help Illinois meet its climate goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Adopting the ACT and HDO rules and joining the multi-state MOU is consistent with the goals of the state and the vision of our companies. With thousands of local jobs at stake, we must act boldly and swiftly to develop domestic EV supply chains by accelerating the transition to EVs. **On behalf of the undersigned companies and organizations, we are committed to supporting electrification efforts that will ensure many of those jobs will be based here in Illinois.**

Beyond economic benefits, deployment of electric trucks and buses will advance progress on our climate goals, support our state's energy independence, reduce threats to national security, and improve air quality in communities that are most heavily burdened by pollution.

As business leaders, we look forward to realizing these benefits together, and we are eager to play a role in supporting Illinois's continued leadership in transportation, manufacturing, and innovation.

Respectfully,

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CC: Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, Senate President Don Harmon, President pro tempore Bill Cunningham, Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, Speaker Chris Welch, Speaker pro tempore Jehan Gordon-Booth, ICC Chair Carrie Zalewski, Deputy Governor Christian Mitchell, Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim, Transportation Secretary Omer Osman