

June 5, 2024

Mr. Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

As leaders of religious organizations and faith communities from a broad spectrum of religious and spiritual life, we stand together in strong support of your agency's recent commitments to limit the harmful pollution which comes from our transportation sector. As you know, the transportation sector is our nation's largest source of carbon-dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, with the worst of these pollutant's effects borne by economically and socially marginalized communities. Rooted in our faith traditions, we hold justice - justice for the oppressed, for those in poverty, and for the environment - in profound reverence, and we understand this crucial step towards a zero-emission future as a step towards justice.

We hope for a future where all communities are able to breathe clean air, not just those who have the luxury of living far away from major highways and road systems. We strive for a world where families do not have to worry if where they live caused their child's asthma or their grandparent's heart disease. We look to a future where transportation options, affordable ones included, do not pose a threat to God's Creation, to our neighbors, or to future generations. It is with this hope that we both celebrate these new standards, and respectfully insist that the work does not end here.

These rules must be implemented swiftly and with the utmost consideration for marginalized communities. The impact of a policy on the most vulnerable communities—rather than the most powerful, affluent, or vocal—must serve as the focal point of the Administration's decision-making and implementation processes. We urge you to continue to prioritize the frontline communities who are most impacted by transportation-related pollution.

Sincerely,

Lamar Bailey, Justice Director, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Karyn Bigelow, Co-Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries
Cassandra Carmichael, Executive Director, National Religious Partnership for the Environment
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