



September 6, 2022

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

The undersigned national health and medical organizations urge you to oppose the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports (RPM) Act of 2021 (H.R. 3281/S.2736). The bill, as written, could worsen local air quality and negatively impact health by allowing high-polluting vehicles on the roads and limiting EPA's authority to regulate motor vehicle emissions.

Thanks to the Clean Air Act, cars and trucks have gotten dramatically cleaner over time thanks to emissions control technology. Despite progress on reducing vehicle pollution, emissions from vehicles and trucks are a significant contributor to air pollution and are creating health burdens. Vehicle emissions include nitrogen oxides, particle pollution and volatile organic compounds, which can all lead to asthma attacks, reduced lung function and increases in hospital visits. Particle pollution can also cause heart attacks, strokes and lung cancer. Some volatile organic compounds are known or likely carcinogens. Vehicles also emit greenhouse gases, which are worsening climate change and therefore the health harms that stem from it.

A report from the American Lung Association found that more than four in ten Americans — more than 137 million people — live in communities impacted by unhealthy levels of air pollution. The health outcomes from air pollution exposure are not shared equitably. Many communities of color and lower income communities are at greater risk due to increased exposure to transportation pollution. Controlling air pollution from the transportation sector is a necessary and commonsense step to improve air quality and reduce health harms.

The RPM Act, as written, would result in the installation of defeat device technology on vehicles that are driven on public roads. Defeat devices are specifically designed to bypass emissions controls, leading to increases in harmful air pollution. They are popular among race car drivers and are often used for vehicles used in motorsport competitions.

The bill would create a loophole that would let aftermarket parts manufacturers off the hook for complying with the Clean Air Act's prohibition on tampering of emissions control systems. These manufacturers could install defeat devices on vehicles as long as they claimed they were not aware the vehicles would be used in non-competitive settings, i.e., regular streets or highways. Of course, many of these vehicles would then be driven on public roads, in addition to or even instead of on a closed racetrack.

In order to truly protect health from air pollution, the nation needs to dramatically reduce the emissions that come from the transportation sector. The RPM Act, as written, could lead to *increases* of emissions by creating opportunities for vehicle tampering given the likelihood that those vehicles would be used on public roads, threatening the health of the individuals and communities living along major roads and highways who are already overburdened by poor quality.

The health and medical community urge you to oppose the RPM Act in its current form and to instead look for a path forward that would maintain EPA's authority to hold violators accountable for failure to use required emissions controls.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Lung Association
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Climate Psychiatry Alliance
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment