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OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**M I C H I G A N**

**EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT**

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**Comment on Proposed Rules on 2017 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards**

**Sue Smith, President, League of Women Voters of Michigan**

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the proposed rules for fuel efficiency and emissions standards and believes they will have significant public health and economic benefits.

The League has a long history of working on issues that are especially important to women and children. Clean air is one of those issues. We have been involved in promoting and protecting clean air standards since the adoption of the Clean Air Act in 1970. Clean air policies have provided strong public health protections that have saved many lives and prevented debilitating illnesses. Our air is safer now but not safe enough for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Because of this, I have joined thousands of others in making the Clean Air Promise, a promise to support clean air policies and other air quality protections that scientists have recommended to EPA. We are working in partnership with public health and environmental groups to speak out about the need to safeguard and further improve our air quality.

We support the new standards because they will substantially reduce pollution caused by vehicle emissions. We know that air pollution damages people's health and causes premature death, particularly in children, the elderly, and people with chronic health problems. Air pollution is a major trigger of asthma attacks.

In Michigan, nearly 1 million people suffer from asthma, including more than 225,000 children. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization of children under the age of 15. It is also one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. We support these regulations for the benefit of our children's health and future.

In addition to lives saved and quality of life benefits, air quality improvements have tangible economic benefits, due to better health and productivity and reduced medical expenses. The new vehicle standards will also spur innovation and investment in new technologies, which will create jobs in advanced automotive technology and manufacturing. We support these rules because they are cost-effective and an investment in our future.

The League commends the EPA and NHTSA for proposing these strong standards and fully endorses their adoption.