

TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Before the Maine Board of Environmental Protection.

IN SUPPORT OF

Global Warming Pollution Standards for New Cars and Trucks

Good afternoon, Chairman Scott and Members of the Board. My name is Dr. Jacob Gerritsen, MD.

I'm an internist and geriatrician from Camden and currently the president of the Maine Medical Association, a professional organization representing more than 2600 Maine physicians.

I have circulated a copy of a resolution put forward by the Public Health Committee of the MMA, which was approved by our general membership at our recently concluded annual session. The resolution states that the MMA recognizes the threat of global warming and realizes that one of the most effective ways to reduce global warming pollution is to drive cleaner cars that emit less carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. I know from practicing here in this state that asthma and emphysema are enormous problems affecting many of our patients and that these problems are made worse by air pollution in its various forms. I am troubled by the potential increase in bad air days caused by rising temperatures due to global warming.

The increased temperatures from global warming increases the formulation of smog.

The impetus for putting this resolution on the agenda at our annual session came from me. I do have asthma, since the age of two and this summer, while walking up Mount Battie, was greatly bothered by the exhaust from vehicles going up the hill.

Ensuring that the people of Maine can drive cars with the cleanest technologies available will have statewide public health implications and our patients will benefit greatly from you supporting global warming pollution standards for new cars and trucks.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.