



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® WISCONSIN

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January 30, 2018

To: Assembly Committee on Transportation

Re: Opposition to AB 555 / SB 457, exempting motor vehicles older than 10 model years from emissions testing

For decades the residents and workers of Sheboygan County and many of the heavily populated manufacturing counties of southeast Wisconsin have lived with poor air quality. These areas were designated “non-attainment” because the air did not meet federal air quality standards. The good news is that actions to implement the federal Clean Air Act have improved air quality over the years and non-attainment designations have been removed. The bad news is that many communities still violate ozone and other air quality standards on a regular basis despite overall improvements.

The 2017 American Lung Association “State of the Air” report shows that the City of Sheboygan “ranked 24 for high ozone days out of 228 metropolitan areas “ Source: <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/msas/sheboygan-wi.html#ozone> Wisconsin’s status for the 2016 American Lung Association “State of the Air” is reported at: http://www.lung.org/local-content/_content-items/about-us/media/press-releases/wisconsin-air-quality-west-sota2016.html

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has strong positions written to protect human health and preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment. League positions promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources in order to protect Air Quality.

AB 555 and companion bill SB 457 are premature. They fail to recognize that existing air pollution will continue to affect families, children, workers and the vulnerable elderly and infirm in communities that are still experiencing unhealthy Bad Air Days.

It makes little sense from a public health standpoint to stop testing older vehicles that may cause harmful air pollution. The older a vehicle is the less likely that it runs properly and the less likely that the air emissions controls are properly tuned to remove toxic air particulates. Even on newer vehicles, emissions controls need periodic testing and re-tuning.

Transportation air emissions cause serious health impacts. Air emissions from transportation and fossil fuels used in industry are responsible for ground-level ozone/smog and particle pollution. Millions of US residents exposed to ozone and particle pollution are at risk of shortened lives, immediate breathing problems, increased asthma attacks and even cardiovascular effects. Infants and young children may suffer lung damage and other adverse developmental impacts. The elderly, those living near congested highways and those who work outdoors are most sensitive to air pollution.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes AB 555/SB 457. We ask you to vote against these companion bills in order protect the quality of the air we all must breathe. Thank you for your consideration of our position.