

Each year, PEQ selects a small number of pieces of environmental legislation that we believe to be of lasting significance. Our staff shares information about this legislation with members of the faith community and encourages faith-based institutions and people of faith to advocate in support of this legislation.

In 2003, PEQ has focused its advocacy efforts on the New Jersey Clean Car Act, a bill that would require cars sold in New Jersey to meet higher emissions standards than the current Federal emissions standards. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Clean Car Act, and to learn how to take action to support it.

The New Jersey Clean Car Act (S121/S2351/A409/A3393)

Car emissions in New Jersey, account for twice as much air pollution as any other source, including coal-based electric generation. Car emissions create higher cancer risk and more asthma attacks.*(cite source)

New Jersey urgently needs tighter emissions standards because air quality in every county in the state is in violation of US EPA standards for ozone pollution and air borne toxics linked to cancer

Despite bi-partisan public support for cleaner cars, the New Jersey legislature has delayed passing legislation that would require carmakers to produce cars with cleaner emissions for New Jersey.

Please join us in taking action on this bill. E-mail **Senate Co-President Codey at SenCodey@nileg.org** and **Assembly Speaker Sires at AsmSires@nileg.org** directly urging them to pass the New Jersey Clean Cars Act. Or, write them yourself, expressing your position.

A sample letter is below.

Assemblyman Albio Sires
303 58th Street
West New York, NJ 07093

Senator Richard Codey
449 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Senate Co-President Codey / Speaker Sires:

The time is right to pass legislation that would reduce unhealthy pollution from car emissions in the state. The New Jersey Clean Cars Act (S121/S2351/A409/A3393) has been under consideration since the 210th legislature convened in January of 2002. Having cleared the necessary committees in both houses, the bill awaits a floor vote. As a person of faith who believes in the importance of environmental stewardship and justice, I urge you to schedule a floor vote as soon as possible

New Jersey's unhealthy air quality poses a risk to public health, and cars are the number one source. Not even electric generation produces more air pollution than cars in New Jersey. New Jersey's air is already in gross violation of US EPA standards for ozone and air toxics, which increase New Jersey residents' cancer risk, trigger asthma attacks, and make it difficult to breathe for an estimated 800,000 people living with respiratory illness. Those living in crowded urban areas suffer the worst health effects of this air pollution, another reason to pass this legislation quickly.

The Clean Cars Act is the single most significant action that the New Jersey legislature can take at this time to protect New Jersey residents from unhealthy air pollution. While other states faced with heavy pollution from cars have already adopted the stronger emissions standards provided by this bill, New Jersey lags behind, even though our air is more burdened with pollution from cars than any other state in the nation.

I am writing to urge you to post and pass the bill as soon as possible. As a person committed to environmental stewardship and justice, I believe it is the right thing to do.

Thank You

(your name and home address here)

For more information on the **The New Jersey Clean Car Act** contact the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group at <http://www.njpirg.org/>