***Written Statement in support of rules that would establish requirements for control devices to reduce emissions from cook stoves at restaurants***

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My name is Trevor Summerfield, and I am the Director of Advocacy with the American Lung Association in New York. I would like to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rules that would establish requirements for control devices to reduce emissions from cook stoves at restaurants. The Lung Association supports the adoption of these common-sense rules to reduce emissions that are detrimental to the lung health of all New Yorkers.

Decades of research on outdoor air has firmly established that exposure to air pollution is harmful to health. Particle pollution, ozone, nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO) and air toxics contribute to premature mortality and increased risk of illness in children and adults, including heart disease and stroke, asthma, COPD, lung cancer, type 2 diabetes, and premature birth.

This is particularly true when it comes to wood combustion which can increase indoor levels of CO, NOx, and air toxics. Wood stoves and fireplaces also release prodigious amounts of deadly particulate matter.

Indoor exposure to air pollutants from wood combustion is linked with increased lower respiratory infections in children, and may be associated with upper respiratory infections, wheeze, and cough. The particulate matter in woodsmoke has a detrimental effect on children’s immune system, leaving them more susceptible to infections.

According to the Lung Associations 2023 “State of the Air” report, the New York City metro area ranks as the 12th most polluted when it comes to ozone pollution and 59th worst for short-term particle pollution. The pollution being generated by wood and coal-fired ovens is not just impacting patrons and employees of these businesses, but it is also pouring out into surrounding communities, impacting everyone.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify regarding these common-sense proposed rules that would establish requirements for control devices to reduce emissions from cook stoves at restaurants. As we desperately race against the clock to turn the tide against climate change, adopting these proposed rules would be a common-sense solution that will reduce harmful emissions to lung health, both indoors and out, with hyper-local implications.