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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL JOINS LAWSUIT AGAINST U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CLAIMING FAULTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF NEW VEHICLE PURCHASES

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul, as part of a multistate coalition of 17 attorneys general, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Postal Service challenging its flawed environmental analysis for its Next Generation Delivery Vehicle Acquisition program. The Postal Service has the largest civilian vehicle fleet in the world, consisting of over 212,000 vehicles, many of which are near the end of their useful lives. [The lawsuit alleges](#) that the Postal Service's plans to replace 90% of this fleet with fossil-fuel-powered, internal combustion engine vehicles fails to comply with even the National Environmental Policy Act's most basic requirements and should be vacated.

"The Postal Service followed an erroneous process in planning to upgrade its vehicle fleet that not only fails to comply with federal law but also would negatively impact environmental justice communities already overburdened by pollution, which is where many Postal Service facilities are located," Raoul said. "I will continue to work to oppose policies that fail to address pollution – particularly in overburdened communities – or help us address the impacts of climate change."

Postal Service vehicles are on the road six days a week in every community in the United States. While these vehicles play a critical role in delivering the nation's mail, they also emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases and other hazardous air pollutants. Many Postal Service facilities are located within environmental justice communities that are already overburdened by pollution. As most of the Postal Service's vehicles near the end of their useful lives, the Postal Service has the opportunity to convert its fleet to zero-emission, electric vehicles, a change that would reduce pollution in these overburdened communities and help tackle the climate crisis.

Given the transformational nature of this change and its significant environmental and public health implications, the Postal Service was obligated to take a "hard look" at the impacts of its Next Generation Delivery Vehicle Acquisitions program under the National Environmental Policy Act. Instead, the Postal Service chose a manufacturer, signed a contract and put down a substantial down payment for new vehicles before even publishing a cursory environmental review. This environmental review, which was later finalized, failed to consider and evaluate vehicle fleets with a larger mix of electric vehicles, instead opting to replace up to 165,000 of its delivery vehicles with 90% fossil-fuel powered vehicles over the next 10 years.

In the lawsuit, Raoul and the coalition argue that the Postal Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) violated the National Environmental Policy Act and should be set aside because:

- The Postal Service violated well-established legal precedent by signing contracts with a defense contractor to procure the vehicles before releasing its draft environmental review.
- The Postal Service failed to consider reasonable alternatives to its proposed action and arbitrarily rejected any consideration of vehicle fleets with a greater percentage of electric vehicles.
- The Postal Service's environmental review failed to properly consider air quality, environmental justice and climate impacts of purchasing a primarily gas-powered fleet.
- The Final EIS failed to ensure the scientific integrity of its analysis by relying on unfounded assumptions and failing to provide the source of the data it considered.
- The Final EIS is inconsistent with state policies to reduce fossil fuel consumption and to encourage the development and use of clean vehicles.

Joining Raoul in filing today's lawsuit are the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, as well as New York City and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.