

December 16, 2010

Dear Representative,

On November 9th, a broad coalition that included 538 companies and organizations representing the manufacturing and business interests, environmental and health-based organizations, faith and labor groups, and state and local agencies, wrote to House members to urge reauthorization of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). The program was authorized in 2005 and is currently scheduled to expire at the end of this fiscal year. Thanks to bipartisan, bicameral negotiations, a reauthorization bill (HR 5809) passed the Senate today and is expected to be taken up on the House floor in the next few days. On behalf of our broad coalition, the undersigned companies and organizations urge a yes vote for the reauthorization bill.

As we stated in our November letter, “DERA has been successful from an economic, environmental and public health perspective, yielding one of the greatest cost-benefit ratios of any federal program” EPA’s report to Congress on DERA shows that projects return an average of \$20 for every dollar spent. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have established their own grant programs which also receive funding under the Act. Communities in every state are breathing cleaner air using overwhelmingly domestically produced technologies that can reduce emissions by up to 90 percent. The reauthorization bill would extend the program for five more years and make a number of modifications to the program to improve transparency, provide greater flexibility and help to streamline the applications process. In recognition of current budgetary constraints, the authorization level has been cut in half to \$100 million per year. Based upon EPA cost-benefit estimates, even at that level, the program could generate up to \$10B in environmental and health benefits if fully funded over the five-year authorization period. More detail about the program and how this bill would improve it is contained in the attached one-pager.

This is an effective, voluntary environmental program that protects or creates American jobs and has been embraced by Members in both chambers, both sides of the aisle and both the current and past Administrations. We ask that, as the bill is brought up for action by the House, you consider the benefits to your communities and to the country as a whole and that you enthusiastically cast an “aye” vote to continue this important program.

Sincerely,

American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)
American Lung Association
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
BASF
Caterpillar Inc.
Clean Air Task Force (CATF)
Corning Incorporated
Cummins Inc.
Deere & Company
Diesel Technology Forum (DTF)
Earthjustice

Emissions Control Technology
Association (ECTA)
Environmental Defense Fund
Johnson Matthey, Inc
National Association of Clean Air
Agencies (NACAA)
National School Transportation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Navistar, Inc.
NGK Automotive Ceramics USA, Inc.
Thomas Built Buses
Umicore Autocat USA Inc.