

March 30, 2010

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Interior  
Committee on Appropriations  
B-308, Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Interior  
Committee on Appropriations  
1339 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Obey and Moran and Ranking Members Lewis and Simpson:

As a uniquely broad coalition of environmental, science-based, public health, industry, and state and local government groups, we thank you for your prior investments in the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and state and local air quality grant programs. We write to request \$100 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and \$309.1 million for state and local air quality grants under the Clean Air Act in FY 2011.

Diesel-powered vehicles and equipment play an important role in the nation's economy and are getting cleaner every day. DERA, originally enacted in 2005 with strong bipartisan support, was designed to reduce emissions from the 20 million existing diesel engines in use today by as much as 90 percent. DERA is an innovative voluntary program of national and state grants and loans for the installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines.

Since enactment, DERA has been successful from an economic and public health perspective, yielding one of the greatest cost-benefit ratios of any federal program, according to Office and Management and Budget calculations. In a recent Report to Congress on the first year of the DERA program, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that for every dollar spent on the DERA program, an average of more than \$20 in health benefits are generated. Every state in the nation now has a diesel retrofit program and would benefit from DERA funding.

Increasing the installation of clean diesel retrofits through significant funding for DERA can generate global warming benefits. While U.S. EPA and others continue to study the issue, recent studies show that black carbon from diesel exhaust has global warming potential. Clean diesel retrofits can reduce this black carbon by over 90 percent.

However, DERA funding is not keeping pace with the program's needs. DERA was authorized for \$1 billion between FY2007-FY2011, but only \$469.2 million of these funds have been appropriated (including \$300 million from the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)). In the past year, the EPA received over 600 applications totaling nearly \$2 billion in requests and over \$2 billion in matching funds. In fact, EPA estimates they received \$1 billion in high quality requests from the ARRA solicitation that went unfunded after ARRA funds were exhausted.

The second critical component of our request is FY2011 funding for state and local air quality grants at \$309.1 million, which is the amount recently requested by the President and which represents an \$82.5 million increase above FY2010 appropriated levels. State and local governments hold primary responsibility for preventing and controlling air pollution and rely on these grants to carry out their core obligations under the Clean Air Act, including monitoring air quality, assessing emissions impacts, permitting and inspecting sources and enforcing laws and regulations.

We urge increased funding for these grants because state and local air quality agencies are straining to maintain existing programs and address increasing responsibilities – such as developing State Implementation Plans to attain and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards, implementing clean air rules, abating toxic air pollutants and developing capacity to permit large sources of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, federal grants for these programs have decreased by approximately one-third in terms of purchasing power over the last 18 years. Recognizing federal resources are limited, we support the President's request, although it will cover only a portion of the federal funding shortfall these agencies face.

State and localities, along with environmental, health, user, and industry groups all support diesel retrofit and clean air investments because it is sound environmental, economic, and budgetary policy. Investment in clean diesel retrofit technology has proven to be the most effective means for reducing U.S. diesel and related black carbon emissions. This funding generates or saves jobs in an industry that is among the hardest hit by the global economic downturn. Most states are facing serious budget challenges that threaten state and local funding for DERA and clean air programs. Therefore, we urge Congress to allocate \$100 million for DERA and \$309.1 million for state and local air quality grants in FY2011.

Sincerely,

Air Quality Work Group, California Partnership  
for the San Joaquin Valley

Alabama State Port Authority

Alaska Wilderness League

American Association of Port Authorities  
(AAPA)

American Bottom Conservancy

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Cancer Society Eastern Division

American Littoral Society

American Lung Association

American Lung Association in Alabama

American Lung Association in Alaska

American Lung Association in Arizona

American Lung Association in California

American Lung Association in Colorado

American Lung Association in Connecticut

American Lung Association in Delaware

American Lung Association in Florida

American Lung Association in Georgia

American Lung Association in Hawaii

American Lung Association in Idaho

American Lung Association in Illinois -- Greater  
Chicago

American Lung Association in Indiana

American Lung Association in Iowa

American Lung Association in Kentucky

American Lung Association in Louisiana

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State, Inc.  
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American Lung Association in Tennessee  
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American Lung Association in Vermont  
American Lung Association in Virginia  
American Lung Association in Washington  
American Lung Association in West Virginia  
American Lung Association in Wisconsin  
American Lung Association in Wyoming  
American Road & Transportation Builders  
Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
(AGC)  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Autotherm Division Enthal Systems Inc.  
Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council  
BASF Catalyst LLC  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
Beaverton Schools Transportation  
Bettendorf Trucking  
Blue Bird Corporation  
Boston Climate Action Network (BostonCAN)  
Breathe California  
Breathe Clean Air Action Team (BCAAT, Inc.)  
Brett Hulsey, Dane County Supervisor, District 4  
California Cotton Ginners Association  
California Cotton Growers Association  
CALSTART  
Canary Coalition  
Carolina Green Food Service Supply  
Cascade Sierra Solutions  
Catalytic Solutions, Inc.  
Caterpillar Inc.  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Centro Comunitario Juan Diego  
Charlotte Area Bicycle Alliance  
Charlotte Energy Solutions  
Chelsea Collaborative, Inc  
Chestnut Ridge Transportation, Inc.  
Childhood Lead Action Project  
Citizen Action/Illinois  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)  
City of Pittsburgh Mayor, Luke Ravenstahl  
City of Westland, Michigan  
Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania  
Clean Air Carolina  
Clean Air Council  
Clean Air Task Force (CATF)  
Clean Air Watch  
Clean Fuels Ohio  
Clean Water Action - California  
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Clean Water Action Alliance of Massachusetts  
Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota  
Coastal Conservation League  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
Community Bus Services, Inc  
Commuter Challenge  
Cornell Outdoor Education  
Corning Incorporated  
Craufurd Manufacturing, LLC  
Cummins Bridgeway LLC  
Cummins Inc.  
Cummins NPower  
DC Environmental Network  
Deere & Company  
Diesel Technology Forum (DTF)  
Donaldson Company  
Doug Hodgson Trucking Co  
Dousman Transport Company, Inc.  
Earth Day Coalition  
Earthjustice  
Eaton Corporation  
Educational Bus Transportation, Inc.  
Emissions Control Technology Association  
(ECTA)  
Emisstar LLC  
Engine Control Systems Limited  
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Environment Colorado  
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FitzGerald Corp.  
Flagler County Public Schools  
Fowler Bus  
Friends of the Earth  
Georgia Mining Association  
Georgia Ports Authority  
Georgia Women's Action for New Directions  
Gilco Properties Inc.  
Gladstein, Neandross & Associates  
Global Green USA  
Gordon Trucking, Inc  
Granite State Clean Cities Coalition  
Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program  
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice  
Groundwork Lawrence  
Group Against Smog and Pollution (Pittsburgh)  
Hendrickson Bus Corporation  
Human Action Community Organization  
Huntington Coach Corporation  
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition  
Illinois Student Environmental Coalition  
Inland Power Group (Butler, WI)  
Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Jaco Transportation, Inc.  
James River Barge Line  
Joe Costa Trucking  
Johnson Matthey, Inc  
Krapf Bus Companies  
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency  
Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association  
(MECA)  
Massport  
Metrolina Biofuels  
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Clean Air Counts  
Campaign  
Michigan Citizen Action  
Michigan Land Use Institute  
Mid State Bus Service, Inc.  
MIRATECH Corporation  
Mobile Bay Audubon Society  
Montana Association of Churches  
Mothers and Others for Clean Air (GA)  
MTU Detroit Diesel Inc.  
Mulehead Transport  
National Association for Pupil Transportation  
(NAPT)  
National Association of Clean Air Agencies  
(NACAA)

National Association of Counties  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of State Directors of Pupil  
Transportation Services  
National Association of Waterfront Employers  
(NAWE)  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
National Ground Water Association  
National Railway Equipment Company  
National School Transportation Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
Navistar, Inc.  
NC WARN  
New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition  
New Jersey Environmental Federation (State  
Chapter of Clean Water Action)  
New York Public Interest Research Group  
(NYPIRG)  
New York Shipping Association  
NGK Automotive Ceramics USA, Inc.  
North Carolina State Ports Authority  
Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use  
Management (NESCAUM)  
Nose Cone Mfg. Co.  
Nuestras Raices  
Ocean State Action (RI)  
Ohio Contractors Association  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Ohio League of Conservation Voters  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, a project of  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Oregon Trucking Associations  
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association  
(PNWA)  
PennEnvironment  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pitt County Memorial Hospital Pediatric Asthma  
Program  
Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities  
Port Everglades  
Port of Everett  
Port of Houston Authority  
Port of Long Beach  
Port of Los Angeles  
Port of Oakland  
Port of Pittsburgh Commission  
Port of Portland (OR)  
Port of San Francisco  
Port of Seattle  
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Prince William Conservation Alliance  
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Puget Sound Clean Air Agency  
Regional Air Pollution Control Agency  
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan  
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Rush Truck Center -- Abilene (TX)  
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Rush Truck Center -- Ardmore (OK)  
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Rush Truck Center -- Escondido (CA)  
Rush Truck Center -- Flagstaff (AZ)  
Rush Truck Center -- Fontana (CA)  
Rush Truck Center -- Fort Worth (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Greeley (CO)  
Rush Truck Center -- Haines City (FL)  
Rush Truck Center -- Houston (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Jacksonville (FL)  
Rush Truck Center -- Laredo (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Las Cruces (NM)  
Rush Truck Center -- Lufkin (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Mobile (AL)  
Rush Truck Center -- Nashville (TN)  
Rush Truck Center -- Oklahoma City (OK)  
Rush Truck Center -- Orlando (FL)  
Rush Truck Center -- Pharr (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Phoenix (AZ)  
Rush Truck Center -- Pico Rivera (CA)  
Rush Truck Center -- San Antonio (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- San Diego (CA)  
Rush Truck Center -- Sealy (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Sylmar (CA)  
Rush Truck Center -- Tampa (FL)  
Rush Truck Center -- Texarkana (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Tucson (AZ)  
Rush Truck Center -- Tulsa (OK)  
Rush Truck Center -- Tyler (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Waco (TX)  
Rush Truck Center -- Winter Garden (FL)

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality  
Management District

San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control  
District

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control  
District

Science & Environmental Health Network  
Shorepower Technologies

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League  
South Carolina State Ports Authority  
South Coast Air Quality Management District

South Shore Clean Cities, Inc. (Northern Indiana)  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision  
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency  
Stay Environmentally Focusd' Foundation  
Student Xpress  
Sunrise Bus Company  
Sunrise Southwest, LLC  
Sunrise Transportation  
Sustainable Energy Alliance of Long Island  
Sustainable Monroeville  
Sustainable Pittsburgh  
Tacoma Rail  
Tampa Port Authority  
Tennessee Environmental Council  
The Port Authority of NY & NJ  
The TransGroup, LLC  
Thomas Built Buses, Inc.  
Toxics Information Project  
Truck Manufacturers Association  
Umicore Autocat USA Inc.  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Motorcoach Association  
Utah Clean Cities  
Virginia International Terminals, Inc  
Virginia Port Authority  
Voices for Earth Justice  
Volvo Group North America  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Inc.  
(WE ACT)  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western N.C. Physicians for Social  
Responsibility  
WI. Engine Manufacturers & Distributors  
Alliance  
Women's Voices for the Earth  
Worcester Regional Environmental Council  
Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority