March 30, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye   The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman                  Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, S-131 113  Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510    Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein   The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman                  Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior   Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
331 Hart Senate Office Building  455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510    Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Feinstein and Ranking Members Cochran and Alexander:

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 DERA, originally enacted in 2005 with strong bipartisan support, was designed to reduce emissions from the 20 million existing diesel engines in use today by as much as 90 percent.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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American Lung Association in Maine
American Lung Association in Maryland
American Lung Association in Massachusetts
American Lung Association in Michigan
American Lung Association in Minnesota
American Lung Association in Mississippi
American Lung Association in Montana
American Lung Association in Nevada
American Lung Association in New Hampshire
American Lung Association in New Jersey
American Lung Association in New Mexico
American Lung Association in New York State, Inc.
American Lung Association in North Carolina
American Lung Association in North Dakota
American Lung Association in Ohio
American Lung Association in Oregon
American Lung Association in Pennsylvania
American Lung Association in Rhode Island
American Lung Association in South Carolina
American Lung Association in South Dakota
American Lung Association in Tennessee
American Lung Association in Utah
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 Hulse, 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 Comunatario Juan Diego
Charlotte Area Bicycle Alliance
Charlotte Energy Solutions
Chelsea Collaborative, Inc
Chesnut 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
Clean Water Action - Chesapeake Region
Clean Water Action - Colorado
Clean Water Action - Connecticut
Clean Water Action - Florida
Clean Water Action - Michigan
Clean Water Action - Pennsylvania
Clean Water Action - Rhode Island
Clean Water Action - Texas
Clean Water Action - Washington, DC
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 NPowen
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
Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
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| Environment Colorado                               | National Association of Counties       |
| Environment Georgia                                | National Association of Manufacturers  |
| Environment Northeast                              | National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services |
| Environment Oregon                                 | National Association of Waterfront Employers (NAWE) |
| Environmental Defense Fund                         | National Conference of State Legislatures |
| Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island       | National Ground Water Association      |
| FitzGerald Corp.                                   | National Railway Equipment Company     |
| Flagler County Public Schools                      | National School Transportation Association |
| Fowler Bus                                         | Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) |
| Friends of the Earth                               | Navistar, Inc.                        |
| Georgia Mining Association                         | NC WARN                                |
| Georgia Ports Authority                            | New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition      |
| Georgia Women’s Action for New Directions          | New Jersey Environmental Federation (State Chapter of Clean Water Action) |
| Gilco Properties Inc.                              | New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) |
| Gladstein, Neandross & Associates                  | New York Shipping Association         |
| Global Green USA                                   | NGK Automotive Ceramics USA, Inc.      |
| Gordon Trucking, Inc                               | North Carolina State Ports Authority   |
| Granite State Clean Cities Coalition               | Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) |
| Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program          | Nose Cone Mfg. Co.                    |
| Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice   | Nuestras Raices                        |
| Group Against Smog and Pollution (Pittsburgh)     | Ocean State Action (RI)                |
| Hendrickson Bus Corporation                        | Ohio Contractors Association           |
| Human Action Community Organization                | Ohio Environmental Council             |
| Huntington Coach Corporation                       | Ohio Environmental Protection Agency   |
| Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition       | Oregon League of Conservation Voters   |
| Illinois Student Environmental Coalition           | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality |
| Inland Power Group (Butler, WI)                    | Oregon Environmental Council           |
| Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice             | Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon |
| International Brotherhood of Teamsters             | Oregon Trucking Associations           |
| Jaco Transportation, Inc.                         | Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) |
| James River Barge Line                             | PennEnvironment                       |
| Joe Costa Trucking                                 | Pennsylvania Council of Churches      |
| Johnson Matthey, Inc                               | Pitt County Memorial Hospital Pediatric Asthma Program |
| Krapf Bus Companies                                | Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities        |
| Lane Regional Air Protection Agency                | Port Everglades                       |
| Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association     | Port of Everett                       |
| (MECA)                                             | Port of Houston Authority              |
| Massport                                           | Port of Long Beach                    |
| Metrolina Biofuels                                 | Port of Los Angeles                   |
| Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Clean Air Counts        | Port of Oakland                       |
| Campaign                                           | Port of Pittsburgh Commission         |
| Michigan Citizen Action                            | Port of Portland (OR)                 |
| Michigan Land Use Institute                        | Port of San Francisco                 |
| Mid State Bus Service, Inc.                        | Port of Seattle                       |
| MIRATECH Corporation                               | Port of Tacoma                        |
| Mobile Bay Audubon Society                         | Prince William Conservation Alliance   |
| Montana Association of Churches                    | Providential Gardener                  |
| 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)                                            |                                       |
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency  South Shore Clean Cities, Inc. (Northern Indiana)
Regional Air Pollution Control Agency  Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan  Southern Environmental Law Center
    Chicago  Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
Rush Truck Center -- Abilene (TX)  Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
Rush Truck Center -- Albuquerque (NM)  State of Wisconsin Office of Energy
Rush Truck Center -- Alice (TX)  Independence
Rush Truck Center -- Ardmore (OK)  Stay Environmentally Focused' Foundation
Rush Truck Center -- Atlanta (GA)  Student Xpress
Rush Truck Center -- Austin (TX)  Sunrise Bus Company
Rush Truck Center -- Chandler (AZ)  Sunrise Southwest, LLC
Rush Truck Center -- Dallas (TX)  Sunrise Transportation
Rush Truck Center -- Denver (CO)  Sustainable Energy Alliance of Long Island
Rush Truck Center -- El Centro (CA)  Sustainable Monroeville
Rush Truck Center -- El Paso (TX)  Sustainable Pittsburgh
Rush Truck Center -- Escondido (CA)  Tacoma Rail
Rush Truck Center -- Flagstaff (AZ)  Tampa Port Authority
Rush Truck Center -- Fontana (CA)  Tennessee Environmental Council
Rush Truck Center -- Fort Worth (TX)  The Port Authority of NY & NJ
Rush Truck Center -- Greeley (CO)  The TransGroup, LLC
Rush Truck Center -- Haines City (FL)  Thomas Built Buses, Inc.
Rush Truck Center -- Houston (TX)  Toxics Information Project
Rush Truck Center -- Jacksonville (FL)  Truck Manufacturers Association
Rush Truck Center -- Laredo (TX)  Umicore Autocat USA Inc.
Rush Truck Center -- Las Cruces (NM)  Union of Concerned Scientists
Rush Truck Center -- Lufkin (TX)  United Motorcoach Association
Rush Truck Center -- Mobile (AL)  Utah Clean Cities
Rush Truck Center -- Nashville (TN)  Virginia International Terminals, Inc
Rush Truck Center -- Oklahoma City (OK)  Virginia Port Authority
Rush Truck Center -- Orlando (FL)  Voices for Earth Justice
Rush Truck Center -- Pharr (TX)  Volvo Group North America
Rush Truck Center -- Phoenix (AZ)  WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Inc.
Rush Truck Center -- Pico Rivera (CA)  (WE ACT)
Rush Truck Center -- San Antonio (TX)  Western Agricultural Processors Association
Rush Truck Center -- San Diego (CA)  Western N.C. Physicians for Social
Rush Truck Center -- Sealy (TX)  Responsibility
Rush Truck Center -- Sylmar (CA)  WI. Engine Manufacturers & Distributors
Rush Truck Center -- Tampa (FL)  Alliance
Rush Truck Center -- Texarkana (TX)  Women's Voices for the Earth
Rush Truck Center -- Tucson (AZ)  Worcester Regional Environmental Council
Rush Truck Center -- Tulsa (OK)  Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority
Rush Truck Center -- Tyler (TX)  Management District
Rush Truck Center -- Waco (TX)  San Luis Obispo County Air Quality
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality  Management District
Management District
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control  District
District
Science & Environmental Health Network
Shorepower Technologies
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
South Carolina State Ports Authority
South Coast Air Quality Management District