

May 3, 2017

Dear Representative:

As part of a uniquely broad coalition of interests, we want to express our support for reauthorization of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program. Because vast opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions through the DERA program, we respectfully request your support for legislation to continue the authorization of DERA for not less than an additional five years.

DERA provides grants and rebates to incentivize equipment and vehicle owners to install retrofit technologies on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, or replace engines and equipment, reducing emissions by as much as 90 percent. EPA's most recent estimates indicate that the program has upgraded nearly 73,000 vehicles or pieces of equipment, and saved over 450 million gallons of fuel. EPA estimates that total lifetime emission reductions achieved through DERA funding are 14,700 tons of particulate matter (PM) and 335,200 tons of oxides of nitrogen (NOX). These reductions have created up to \$12.6 billion of health benefits. The program helps to improve air quality at the nation's schools, construction sites, highways, railyards and ports. The program is voluntary and has adopted many cost saving administrative practices, such as the inclusion of a rebate program applicable to school buses and construction equipment that speeds the delivery of program funds with a minimum amount of red tape. The program effectively cleans our air and underpins employment in innovative industries.

Since implementation, DERA has become one of the most cost-effective federal clean air programs and enjoyed support in both the Bush and Obama Administrations. EPA estimates every \$1 in federal assistance is met with another \$3 in non-federal matching funds, including significant investments from the private sector, and generates \$5 to \$21 in health and economic benefits. Every state benefits because 30 percent of the funding goes to support individual state programs.

First enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 as a Senate floor amendment authored by former governors, Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH) and Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) and approved 92 to 1, DERA provides funding to incentivize equipment and vehicle owners to install retrofit technologies on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, or replace engines and equipment, reducing emissions by as much as 90 percent. DERA has continued to enjoy broad bipartisan support. In 2010, the Senate approved DERA reauthorization unanimously and the House approved the measure by voice vote. Last year, the Senate approved DERA reauthorization by voice vote as an amendment to the Senate comprehensive energy bill,

Page 2

S. 2012, but the conference with the House stalled on other issues and the bill did not become law.

The DERA program is still needed to help speed adoption of highly cost-effective emission control technologies for the millions of diesel vehicles which do not meet the most recent emission control standards. It is our hope that Congress will act to extend the program to allow the benefits of diesel emission reduction to continue in communities around the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Advance Engine Systems, Inc. – American Association of Port Authorities
American Lung Association – American Power Group – American Trucking Associations
Associated General Contractors – Blue Bird Corporation – Clean Air Task Force
Corning Incorporated – Cummins Inc. – Diesel Technology Forum – EDF Action
Emission Control Technology Association – IC Bus
Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association – NAFA Fleet Management Association
National Association for Pupil Transportation – National Association of Clean Air Agencies
National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services
National School Transportation Association – Saltchuk
South Coast Air Quality Management District – Thomas Built Buses
Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association – Umicore Autocat, Inc.
United Motorcoach Association – Volvo Group North America**