



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2006

The Honorable Charles Taylor
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Rayburn House Office Building, Room
B-307

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Rayburn House Office Building, Room
B-307

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

As the Subcommittee considers Fiscal Year 2007 funding priorities, we respectfully request \$49.5 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act ("DERA")-which is the amount of funding included in the President's budget for this critical program.

Diesel engines play an important role in our nation's economy. The challenge is their harmful emissions, with on-road and off-road heavy duty diesel vehicles accounting for roughly one-half of the nitrogen oxides and particulate matter emissions from mobile sources nationwide. Although the Administration has taken action with diesel fuel and new engine regulation to reduce emissions, there are 11 million existing engines.

Supported by a broad coalition of environmental, public, industry and labor groups, DERA was enacted as a part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to address this issue. It authorized \$200 million annually to establish voluntary national and state grant and loan programs to reduce diesel emissions to improve air quality and protect public health.

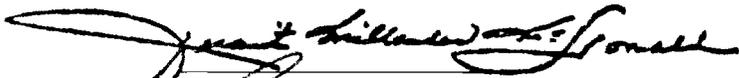
This funding is fiscally responsible. EPA estimates that investment in DERA will generate \$13 of benefit for every \$1 of cost. Furthermore, it will go a long way toward helping states and localities meet the nation's clean air standards. Similar exiting federal and state programs have also shown that the federal contribution will leverage considerable funding from other states.

As you may know, the energy bill authorized several other important diesel initiatives, including the Clean School Bus USA Program, Diesel Truck Retrofit and Fleet Modernization Program, and Engine Idling Reduction Program. We support the Administration's effort to consolidate these programs with the intent that they be carried out as authorized within DERA. We urge the Subcommittee to not limit the program to

non-attainment areas as the authorization language includes priorities to ensure that the funding is effectively and efficiently directed to where it is needed most.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We urge you to fund DERA at the President's request of \$49.5 million for FY2007. Funding this program will significantly improve our nation's air quality, and it is sound environmental, economic, and budgetary policy.

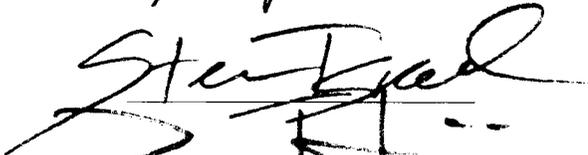
Sincerely,

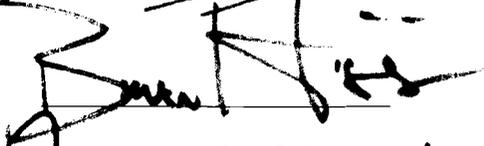












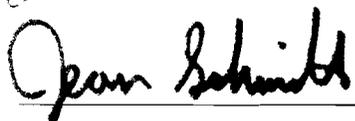


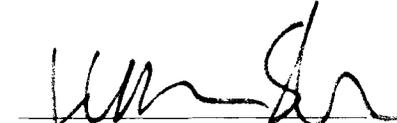




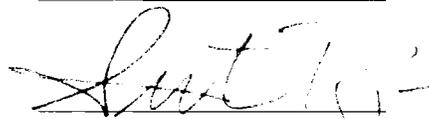




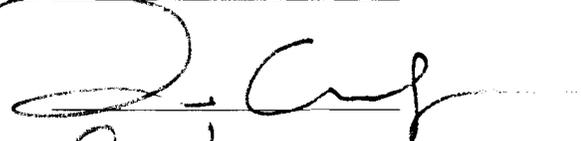


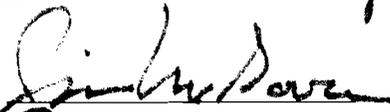


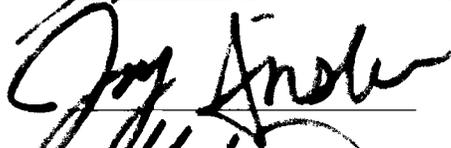






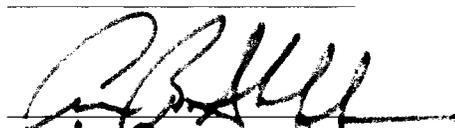




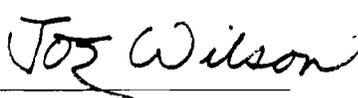












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