

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

June 22, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Dirksen 131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Hart 125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Senator Cochran, Chairman Feinstein, and Senator Alexander:

We are writing concerning the pending appropriation in fiscal year 2010 for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program ("DERA"). We believe DERA provides us with a win-win in environmental and economic benefits and hope you will fund the program to the amounts seen in the FY09 Appropriation bill.

DERA was enacted as the Energy Policy Act of 2005 with overwhelming bi-partisan support. It passed by a vote of 92 to 1 in the Senate. Its purpose was to provide funding to finance the installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, thereby reducing their harmful emissions by as much as 90 percent. The program has been hugely successful, the EPA estimates that for every dollar spent in the DERA program, more than \$13 of economic and health benefits are generated. DERA is effectively cleaning our air, while saving jobs in industries that are suffering from the depression in the auto sector.

We have been advised that the EPA has been overwhelmed with applications with significant matching contributions to help leverage the program. EPA reports that it has received over 650 applications for the federal portion of the program, requesting over \$2 billion in funding and offering another \$2 billion in matching funds. This response is simply incredible and demonstrates the huge unmet demand for diesel retrofit funding.

We hope that, in light of the outstanding response to the funding opportunities for DERA, you will match last year's appropriation funding for DERA and provide \$75 million in the FY10 appropriation. At a time when our country is looking for ways to create jobs and clean the environment, DERA stands out as a prime example of a program that works.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Cooper *Jill Hunt*

Barbara Byer *Greg V. Kinosh*

Carl Lee *Kirsten E. Gillibrand*

Miss Fergold *Robert M. Merendy*

Frank R. Lautenberg