

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2007

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Larry Craig  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Craig:

As the Subcommittee considers Fiscal Year 2008 funding priorities, we respectfully request \$49.5 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and \$245.3 million for state and local air quality grants. These important programs are supported by a broad coalition of environmental and public health, industry, and state and local governmental groups.

Diesel powered vehicles and equipment play an important role in the nation's economy and are getting cleaner every day. Although the Administration has developed diesel fuel and new engine regulations to reduce emissions, there are 11 million existing engines. DERA, as authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, will provide significant emissions reductions from these existing engines. The President's FY2008 budget includes \$35 million, but we support the FY2007 request of \$49.5 million for DERA. We endorse the Administration's effort to consolidate the Clean School Bus USA Program, Diesel Truck Retrofit and Fleet Modernization Program, Engine Idling Reduction Program and National Clean Diesel Campaign with the intent that they be carried out as authorized within DERA. However, we request that you do not limit the program to nonattainment areas.

This funding is fiscally responsible as it has one of the greatest benefits to cost ratios of any federal program. Furthermore, it will go a long way toward helping states and localities meet the nation's clean air standards. Similar existing federal and state programs have also shown that the federal contribution will leverage considerable funding from other sources.

Additionally, we request that you increase funding for state and local air quality grants by \$25 million above the FY2006 appropriated level of \$220.3 million for a total of \$245.3 million. 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, developing comprehensive state implementation plans, permitting and inspecting sources, enforcing laws and regulations, and conducting public education and outreach.

The President's FY2008 budget provides \$185.2 million for this program even though state and local air quality agencies are under-funded and face increasing responsibilities – such as attaining and maintaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards, implementing clean air rules, and addressing toxic air pollutants.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We urge you to provide \$49.5 million for DERA and \$245.3 million for state and local air quality grants. Funding these programs will significantly improve our nation's air quality and represent sound environmental, economic, and budgetary policy.

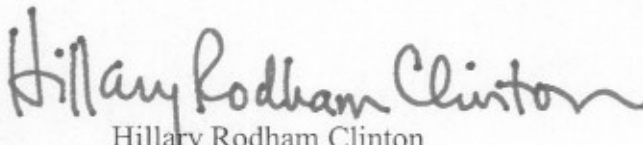
Sincerely,




Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



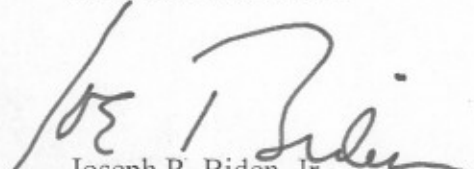
George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator



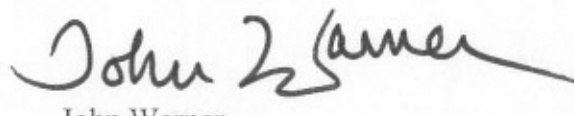
Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator




Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



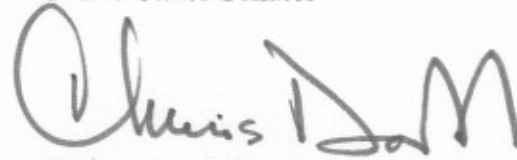
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
United States Senator



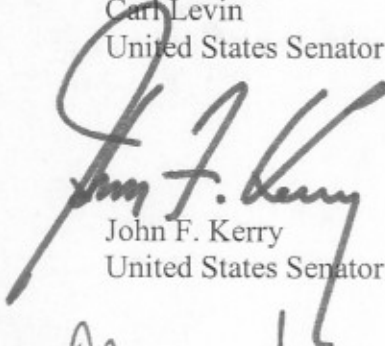
John Warner  
United States Senator



Carl Levin  
United States Senator



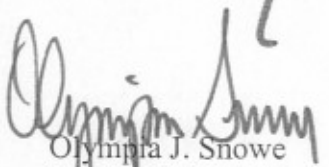
Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senator




John F. Kerry  
United States Senator



Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senator



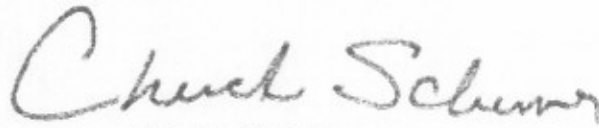
Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



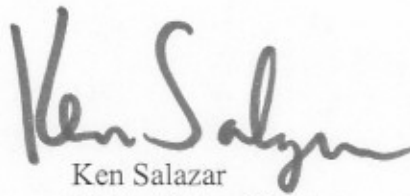
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Barack Obama  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator