

LINCOLN D. CHAFEE  
RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3904

December 16, 2005

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2921  
TDD: (202) 224-7746

PROVIDENCE OFFICE:  
170 WESTMINSTER STREET  
SUITE 1100  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903  
(401) 453-5294

NEWPORT OFFICE:  
320 THAMES STREET  
ROOM 272  
NEWPORT, RI 02840  
(401) 845-0700

INTERNET ADDRESS:  
<http://chafee.senate.gov>

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

I write to express my strong support for full funding for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2005 in the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget.

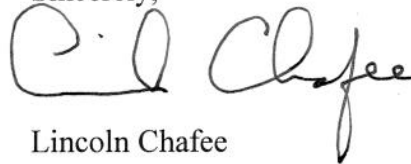
Enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) establishes voluntary national and state-level grant and loan programs to promote the reduction of diesel emissions. On-road heavy duty diesel engines, such as trucks and transit buses, and non-road diesel vehicles, such as construction equipment, account for roughly one-half of the nitrogen oxide and particulate matter emissions from mobile sources nationwide. However, the long lifetime of the more than 11 million existing diesel engines today results in fewer air quality benefits in the near future. In order to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new air quality standards, states will require federal assistance to implement diesel retrofit programs.

Authorized at \$200 million annually, DERA provides critical new tools to assist states in developing diesel-retrofit programs that meet their individual air quality needs. Further, as a result of provisions within the Act encouraging the entry of new retrofit technologies to the marketplace, overwhelming support for DERA has come from the private sector. According to EPA estimates, full funding for the Act would leverage an additional \$500 million in non-federal funds, leading to a net benefit of almost \$20 billion with a reduction of approximately 70,000 tons of particulate matter. This equates to a 13 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio, far above the ratio for many federal programs.

I understand the FY2007 Budget may contain only \$35 million in funding for DERA. I encourage you to provide the fully authorized amount for the Act in the FY2007 Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lincoln Chafee

cc: James Connaughton, CEQ Chairman