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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Tuesday, March 28, 2006, 10:00 AM

## Hearing before the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board Broomall, Pennsylvania

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Tim Kearney. I want to thank the Board and the Governor for holding these hearings and listening to our comments.

I am running for the Democratic nomination for the 172<sup>nd</sup> District in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. This is important because the House of Representatives has House Bill 2141 before it, which would undo the Clean Vehicles Program you plan to implement. The Clean Vehicles Program is an excellent beginning to reduce air pollution from cars and trucks below today's levels. I congratulate you for taking this action and receiving the public's comments.

The 172<sup>nd</sup> District is in Philadelphia, probably the worst county in the state for air pollution. It is the county with the largest population of poor people, and it has a high proportion of elderly residents. Both of these populations are at greater risk from air pollution's injuries. The Clean Vehicles Program will help my county more than any other. It is sad when the House leadership, who hail from Philadelphia, fails their constituents. Such failure was left out of his last glossy taxpayer funded newsletter and self-promotional picture book.

The newer technology, used in Clean Vehicles Program cars and trucks, is being used, and has been proven, in nine other states. There appears to be almost no economic, technological, political, or environmental problems associated with this higher standard for vehicle exhaust. The federal standards are outdated and too weak, being based on older technology.

We benefit from neighboring states having already adopted this standard. It is time to reciprocate their farsightedness and discipline. We should adopt this Clean Vehicle Program as soon as possible. Similarly, I call upon Speaker John Perzel to block House Bill 2141 and Senate Bill 1025. 2141 and 1025 should be dead on arrival. For the sake of Philadelphia and the health of our own 172<sup>nd</sup> District constituents, he should have already done this.

I will run for office opposing these two bills and applauding the Governor's Clean Vehicles Program.

Having clean air and clean water makes our country and our state great. It sets us apart from many other highly polluted countries. Maintaining a high standard for clean air prevents so much illness and injury saving far, far more money than it costs to upgrade our pollution standards. Moreover, it provides public health. Public health is easier to maintain, than it is to recapture, after degradation from pollution. Public health and a sound economy both rest on the foundation of a clean environment.

Finally, after the Clean Vehicle Program is implemented and 2141 and 1025 are defeated, please move quickly, to implement better, cleaner fuels, and sources of energy. We have much further to go in cleaning our air. There are some other easy things we can do. I promise to work with you and introduce some of them in the House.

Thank you for taking my comments. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Tim Kearney  
Democratic Candidate for the 172<sup>nd</sup> District of the PA General Assembly  
6710 Rowland Avenue, Apartment #1  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149-2621  
215-331-7206 home phone  
timothy2@netcarrier.com

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