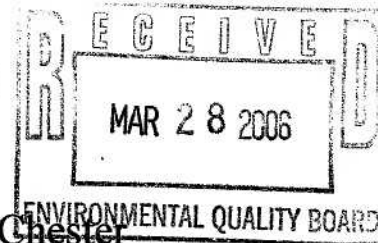


**Remarks to the Environmental Quality Board
(March 28, 2006)**



My name is Bill Seybold. My family and I have lived in the West Chester area for almost 40 years. I welcome this opportunity to give a few thoughts on a subject that concerns not only my wife and I, but, also, colleagues many of whom who are either in this room or who have signed the petition that I shall leave with you.

The air that we all breathe is polluted in a variety of ways, but two are prominent: soot from coal-burning plants and emissions from motor vehicles. Both of these are responsible for placing Pennsylvania annually among the nation's ten most air-polluted states. Both of these sources of pollutants should and can be remedied, but I shall confine my remarks to the latter.

The technology exists to provide means by which motor vehicles can produce less polluted emissions. For years California has demonstrated this and continues to be progressive on this issue by setting emission standards that are being emulated by other states, e.g. New York and New Jersey. We in this Commonwealth cannot wait until hybrids become the vehicle of choice or until we have cars powered by hydrogen (whose only emission is water). There are those, particularly among the auto lobby, that claim that such emission-enhancing procedures will result in increased sticker price and, hence, lower sales. Perhaps. I belong to an age that listed a car radio as an option; that later had directional signals as optional; that presently list air bags as optional. Did the automakers eventually make "standard" these innovations that provide for the pleasure and safety of the driver? Of course. How much more important is it that they make "standard" devices on autos and trucks that provide for the common good, i.e. the health of the populace?

The evidence continues to mount that global warming is an ever present and threatening reality despite those who invoke the notion of "bad science" and would have us "wait and see." I would rather cast my lot with those who know that better emission standards contribute to a lessening of released carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming. It is particularly vexing to me that when I talk with heads of families and hear them speak of the sacrifices they make to insure the future financial and educational well-being of their children and grandchildren, that these same folks seem reluctant to make sacrifices that will ensure a healthy world for these same children.

As a member of a faith community I cannot stand idly by when I see evidence that certain segments of the human family seem to be working against the preserving of God's creation. I ask this Board, how can a body of my elected representatives pass a resolution against "cleaner autos"? It is somewhat encouraging to observe that some of this nation's states are passing laws that overcome weak federal legislation (e.g., minimum wage, and voting procedures). It is my hope that this Board will move to have Pennsylvania join the ranks of environmentally progressive states by supporting the work of the state Department of Environmental Protection's proposed changes to the PA Clean Vehicle Program. To do otherwise is to take several giant steps backward when we should be leading efforts to provide a healthier environment for us all.

Thank you for your attention to these remarks.

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