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April 10, 2006

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing to urge the state to move ahead as quickly as possible in implementing the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program and its clean air standards for cars and trucks that go beyond weaker federal requirements.

Pennsylvania ranks among the worst states in the country when it comes to air pollution. This air pollution is plaguing the Commonwealth and leading to a host of public health problems including asthma attacks in children and aggravation of respiratory ailments in adults.

One of the worst sources of this pollution is cars and trucks. Technology exists today that would allow cars and trucks to run cleaner and significantly reduce our air pollution problem. In turn, this will help the Commonwealth to come into compliance with the health-based standards of the federal Clean Air Act.

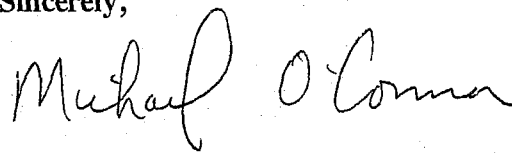
By moving as quickly as possible to implement the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program, we would be able to significantly reduce our air pollution problem – emissions of smog-forming pollution from cars and trucks would be cut by 10 percent, toxic benzene pollution up to 15 percent and global warming emissions would drop by nearly 25 percent by 2025, as compared to reductions under the weaker federal program being considered. And an added benefit of the standards is that they would likely make cars go farther on a gallon of gas, saving Pennsylvanians money when they fill up at the gas pump.

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Again, I urge the state to move forward and implement the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program. Pennsylvania should not settle for the weaker federal requirements – my constituents and the state's residents deserve better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael O'Connor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Michael O'Connor
Commissioner Ward 3
Abington Township

MO/mjw