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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

DIANNA RUDY, PA-C

#2658

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Feb. 6, 2008

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

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to 25 PA. CODE CHS. 121 AND 126 which were adopted by the Environmental Quality Board on October 16, 2007. A review of the data gathered by Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania, Inc. more than adequately demonstrates that 18 Pennsylvania counties have failed to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM 2.5. Cumberland County, where I live, is one of the worst in the state. My daughter, my patients, and my friends all must breathe air that is potentially hazardous to their health. As you know, repeated inhalation of excessive levels of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) poses a serious health risk; it can aggravate heart and lung disease and cause other serious health problems including lung cancer, abnormal lung development in children and premature death. As a respiratory irritant, it is particularly harmful to my many asthmatic patients and premature infants with already-damaged lungs. Our children deserve better than this.

The proposed idling restriction of 5 minutes in a 60-minute period for diesel-powered commercial motor vehicles is a win-win scenario. Not only will the PM 2.5 levels be (hopefully) brought into compliance with the National Standard; reducing the idling time of heavy-duty trucks reduces petroleum consumption, fuel costs, engine wear and maintenance costs for the truck owners. A proposal such as this, in which both sides benefit, is to be applauded. The trucking industry saves money and Pennsylvanians lead healthier lives. We will leave a positive legacy for our posterity.

Again, I fully support this Idling Regulation and sincerely hope that it becomes law. For the good of all concerned, we cannot afford to do otherwise.

With Regards,

Holly C. Hoffman MD