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MAR 11 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

March 4, 2008

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

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board,

Carlisle Regional Medical Center is dedicated to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, the prevention of disease and the restoration of the health of the people in our community.

We are well aware that idling emissions by commercial diesel trucks and buses are a growing problem with the increase of long-haul diesel trucks traveling the highways of the Commonwealth. Cumberland County, home to our hospital, physicians' offices, employees' residences and primary county where the majority of our patients live, experiences the highest number of long duration idling hours in the commonwealth. Every truck that idles over a long period of time at rest stops and truck facilities adds pounds of ground-level pollutants to the air and results in poor air quality. We are concerned about the adverse health effects of fine particulate pollution (PM 25) in the ambient air. Breathing diesel emissions containing these fine particles can result in exacerbation of lung disease, i.e. asthma and emphysema and can precipitate heart attacks. Populations at particular risk include infants, children and the elderly with pre-existing heart and lung disease. In addition, diesel exhaust is known to contain three carcinogens that cause lung and bladder cancer. These tiny particles carrying toxic substances enter our lungs and are deposited in the deepest recesses of our lung tissue. Some of these toxic substances can cause cancer or other adverse health effects.

Where diesel trucks congregate – at truck stops, rest areas, and parking lots – the concentration of emissions are especially harmful to those who must breathe these emissions – workers, drivers, residents.

Therefore, we strongly support the proposed regulation to limit idling emissions by commercial diesel trucks and buses, a regulation that is important to the health of our community resulting in less diesel pollution emitted during rest breaks, hence less pollution in our lungs. The proposed idling regulation is consistent with the EPA model rule and the state rules in those states which have adopted idling regulations. We do not support any additional exemptions for idling, other than the ones listed in the regulation. Turning engines on and off while waiting in line is not an undue burden.

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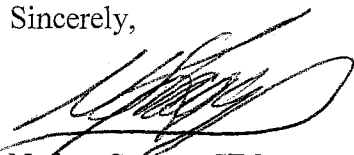
We believe that we need to protect school children from unnecessary exposure to diesel emissions, while protecting their safety. We recognize that there may be certainly limited situations, where school buses may need to idle on public streets to pick up children. When they are on school property, school buses should not idle.

Many trucking companies have installed auxiliary power systems on their diesel vehicles to eliminate the need to run the main engines to heat or cool the cab during rest periods. The May 1, 2010 expiration date for temperature related exemption of idling during rest periods provides companies and drivers with sufficient time to install bunk heaters or auxiliary power unite. The regulation also requires truck operators to use existing facility electrification systems (such as Idle0aire) if they are installed and available for use. We support this requirement.

We are the only state in the northeast that does not have an idling rule. The current situation may encourage some operators to rest in Pennsylvania and idle their trucks in Pennsylvania.

As members of the Carlisle community, active supporters of the efforts of the Clean Air Board, Carlisle Regional Medical Center thanks you and your Committee members for your steadfast commitment to protecting the health of Pennsylvanians. We look forward to collaborating with you in our collective efforts of the promotion of healthy lifestyles, the prevention of disease and the restoration of the health of the people in our community.

Sincerely,



Nathan Staggs, CEO
Carlisle Regional Medical Center