

## **Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Coalition**

November 20, 2020

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Thornberry:

When it comes to improving air quality for communities across the country, one of the most effective strategies is to replace older heavy-duty vehicles and equipment with new and much cleaner options. That is the goal of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program managed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Senate passed a provision (SEC. 6083) in the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that reauthorizes the DERA program through FY2024 at \$100 million per year. We urge you to include reauthorization of this important program in the final NDAA conference report.

Four out of every ten Americans reside in a region with unhealthy air, according to EPA. The American Lung Association estimates that air quality for many regions around the country is not improving. DERA helps communities clean up their air by replacing older trucks, buses, and equipment with newer, cleaner technologies. Replacing just one Class 8 truck with a new model can eliminate tons of emissions in a single year. The program is voluntary, competitive, and technology neutral, allowing funding to be used for projects, advanced locally, that provide the highest benefits for the amount of funding requested. DERA also enjoys broad bipartisan support, along with support from a long list of business interests and environmental and health advocates.

According to the EPA's July 2019 report to Congress on the program, since DERA's funding was first appropriated in 2008, more than 67,000 vehicles and engines have been upgraded or replaced, delivering \$19 billion in direct health benefits to Americans. Those benefits include eliminating 15,490 tons of fine particles and 427,700 tons of nitrogen oxides, a smog forming compound. Those figures equate to approximately the same emission reductions as taking more than 236 million cars off the road for a year.

The DERA program provides partial funding to incentivize owners to make a smart investment in their purchase of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles and equipment. As a result, every \$1 in public funds appropriated through the DERA program is leveraged with an additional \$3 in non-federal funds, generating between \$11 and \$30 in public health benefits and an additional \$2 in fuel savings.

While DERA has been around since 2008, much work remains to be done. Heavy-duty trucks and off-road equipment are built to last, meaning a large fleet of older and higher emitting trucks remain in service. Almost six in ten trucks on the road today are not equipped with technologies to achieve the latest near-zero tailpipe emissions standard set by EPA and the DERA program is an important tool to replace these older and higher emitting trucks with modern, cleaner technologies. Research shows that off-road equipment, including locomotives, are of an even

older generation technology and will be in the field for decades to come. DERA provides the funding needed to incentivize the replacement of those older and higher emitting vehicles and equipment with modern, cleaner technologies.

The Diesel Emission Reduction Act has proven to be one of the most effective tools to generate air quality and health benefits for local communities across the country and the EPA's most recent report to Congress shows that those benefits continue today. The program has enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate and House in years past. We urge you to reauthorize the program for another five years in the final FY21 NDAA conference report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Advanced Engine Systems Institute  
The Alliance for Vehicle Efficiency  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Lung Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Caterpillar Inc.  
Clean Air Task Force  
Corning Inc.  
Cummins Inc.  
Daimler Trucks North America  
Diesel Technology Forum  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah  
Lion Electric  
Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association  
NAFA Fleet Management Association  
National School Transportation Association  
Neighbors for Clean Air  
Seafood Harvesters of America  
Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association  
Umicore Autocat USA, Inc.  
United Motorcoach Association  
Volvo Group North America