

**STATE AND TERRITORIAL AIR POLLUTION
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS (STAPPA)
AND
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL OFFICIALS (ALAPCO)**

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**EPA 'WALKS THE WALK' ON CLEAN DIESELS,
SAY STATE AND LOCAL AIR OFFICIALS**

(Washington, D.C.) – State and local air pollution control officials today lauded EPA's decision to clean up big diesel trucks and their fuel.

Hailing the agency's decision as "truly monumental," S. William Becker, Executive Director of the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO) commended EPA Administrator Carol Browner for her unwavering tenacity in reaching this conclusion. "The pressure on EPA to back down on this rule has been enormous. But Administrator Browner and her staff knew what had to be done and would not be daunted. They have walked the walk on this extremely critical issue and confronted the noxious air pollution from dirty diesel trucks and their fuel head on."

The program announced today by EPA most appropriately takes a systems-based approach to cutting emissions from big diesels that travel our nation's roads, by addressing both the diesel engine and its fuel. Diesel engine emissions of smog-forming pollutants and soot – which not only foul our air, but also cause or contribute to a variety of serious health problems, including cancer – will be reduced by over 90 percent beginning in 2007. In addition, sulfur in diesel fuel will be limited to 15 parts per million beginning in mid-2006, representing a dramatic reduction from current levels; the advanced technologies necessary for achieving the substantial reductions in engine emissions will not function without this ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

"STAPPA and ALAPCO have consistently been strong proponents of an aggressive systems-based clean diesel approach. EPA's program closely mirrors what our associations have been advocating and we are confident that it will play a pivotal role in state and local efforts to achieve and sustain clean, healthful air across the country,"

said Richard Valentinetti, Director of the Vermont Air Pollution Control Division and President of STAPPA. “We applaud this action and look forward not only to fully realizing the tremendous benefits it will provide, but also to continuing to collaborate with our federal partners to set in place a similar program for diesel engines and fuels used in construction equipment and for other non-highway purposes.”

EPA’s crack down on dirty diesels follows an agency decision to clean up cars, sport utility vehicles, minivans and the gasoline that fuels them. “Last year’s adoption by EPA of Tier 2 vehicle standards and low-sulfur gasoline was a remarkable achievement on the part of the agency in terms of successfully balancing a variety of competing interests and, moreover, it represented a tremendous stride in protecting public health and the environment,” noted Marcia Willhite, Assistant Chief of the Lincoln-Lancaster County (Nebraska) Health Department’s Environmental Health Division and President of ALAPCO. “This heavy-duty diesel program is an even more remarkable accomplishment and, further, it will save three times more lives and three times more money than the Tier 2 program. I hope people will recognize how very significant this milestone is,” she continued.

“Simply stated, this is huge,” said Becker of EPA’s decision. “It seals an outstanding legacy on the part of the agency and this Administration. EPA has every reason to be proud and our nation has every reason to be grateful.”

STAPPA and ALAPCO represent air pollution control agencies in the states, territories and metropolitan areas across the country. For more information, visit the associations’ web site at www.4cleanair.org.

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