



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 5 2004

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Cory R. Chadwick
Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials
444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 307
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Chadwick:

I am writing to make very clear that the Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency remain firmly committed to the successful and timely implementation of EPA's 2007 Clean Diesel Program for fuels and engines.

Recent reports have stated that trucking industry representatives are questioning the feasibility of reducing emissions from diesel trucks so quickly. Some groups are asking for assurance that smokeless diesels will be ready for sale in 2007. And trucking companies are seeking adequate time to prove the reliability and performance of these new technologies. I have directed EPA staff to work closely with fuel providers and engine and truck manufacturers on the introduction of prototype engines and sufficient low-sulfur diesel fuel well in advance of 2007.

The 2007 Clean Diesel Program's comprehensive approach will see refiners remove almost all sulfur from diesel fuel to prevent contamination of the advanced emission-control technologies that truck and bus engine manufacturers will install on new vehicles. With cleaner engines and cleaner fuel reducing soot particles and smog-causing oxides of nitrogen by more than 90 percent, the program's overwhelming health benefits will greatly outweigh the costs.

Other steps to reduce diesel emissions include regulations this spring that will greatly reduce emissions from non-road diesel engines used in construction, agricultural, mining, and airport service equipment. Also, the President has requested \$65 million in 2005 for EPA's Clean School Bus USA program to replace older diesel-powered buses with cleaner, safer ones and to install advanced pollution-control devices on others. And I recently announced the Smartway Transport Partnership, a voluntary public/private collaboration to promote fuel efficiency and emission reductions, including greenhouse gases, from the ground freight industry.

Working closely with our partners, we remain confident that the 2007 Clean Diesel Program and our other initiatives will succeed in improving air quality across the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael O. Leavitt".

Michael O. Leavitt



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 15 2004

Mr. James A. Joy, III
State and Territorial Air Pollution
Program Administrators
444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 307
Washington, D.C. 20001

THE ADMINISTRATOR

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Michael O. Leavitt

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>