

# CLEAN AIR BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Clean Air Board Applauds EQB Action to Propose Idling Regulations**

*Harrisburg, PA (October 16, 2007)* – Today, the state Environmental Quality Board (EQB) proposed a regulation to limit idling by commercial diesel trucks and buses. The proposed regulation comes in response to a petition filed by the Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania in October 2006. Clean Air Board president, Rev. Jennifer McKenna, thanked the Board members for their action, noting “We applaud the Environmental Quality Board’s action. We believe a regulation limiting prolonged idling by diesel vehicles will protect the health of all Pennsylvanians, including young children and the elderly who suffer from respiratory problems.” The EQB action authorizes publication of the proposed regulation, public hearings, and a public comment period. A final vote will be taken by the EQB after public comments have been received.

The Clean Air Board’s 2006 petition asked the Department of Environmental Protection and the EQB to adopt regulations to limit idling by commercial diesel vehicles. Due to an extensive interstate road system and geography, Pennsylvania has become a transportation and distribution hub for the nation. 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. The residents of Cumberland County are keenly aware of this kind of pollution. DEP’s studies have concluded that Cumberland County experiences the highest number of long duration idling hours in the Commonwealth.

Many of Pennsylvania’s neighboring states have adopted limits on idling.

The Clean Air Board was formed in the fall of 2005 after over 100 Cumberland County physicians signed and published in the newspaper an open letter informing the community of the growing danger of ozone and particulate pollution.

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