

# CLEAN AIR BOARD

*of Central Pennsylvania, Inc*  
528 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** ThomasAu  
717-234-7445  
thomasau@excite.com

## **Clean Air Board Urges Approval of Idling Regulations**

*Harrisburg, PA (February 14, 2008)* – The Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania (CAB) submitted oral and written comments at the Environmental Quality Board's public hearing on regulations to limit idling by diesel vehicles. The proposed regulation will limit the amount of time commercial diesel trucks and buses can idle. When the regulation takes full effect in 2010, diesel vehicles will only be allowed to idle 5 minutes in any hour, with some operational exceptions. Thomas Au, CAB's spokesman at the hearing, noted that diesel exhaust concentrated at truck stops, rest areas, and along roadsides affects the health of those who must breathe these emissions – workers, drivers, and residents.

At the public hearing, the Clean Air Board submitted petitions signed by 1,400 central Pennsylvania residents supporting the proposed regulations. The signatures were collected from residents of Cumberland County, Dauphin County, Lancaster County, York County, and Perry County.

Other members of CAB testified at the public hearing, including several Cumberland County residents who suffer from asthma and chronic pulmonary obstructive disease. Breathing air containing diesel exhaust can reduce lung function, thereby aggravating asthma and other respiratory conditions, and leading to increased doctor visits, increased emergency room visits, and hospital admissions. Diesel exhaust contributes to the level of fine particulate in the air. Central Pennsylvania experiences high fine particulate concentrations year-round. In Harrisburg, the 24-hour public health standard for fine particulate was exceeded 14 times in 2007.

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. ###