

January 2, 2006

As a parent of school age children and a child psychologist who has seen a steady increase in the number of my clients coping with asthma, I am writing to demand that the DEP make specific recommendations to clean up the diesel fleets and not let voluntary measures that can be ignored be substituted for true progress.

The CT Diesel Plan needs to set up a comprehensive diesel pollution plan which explicitly requires the clean up of school buses, transit buses and state construction equipment. Particularly in our already polluted urban areas, these vehicles are exposing our children to high levels of dangerous pollutants. The cost is too high in terms of medical costs, lost school time, and the reduction in the quality of their lives.

The plan needs to set up standards for replacing dirty diesels with newer and cleaner vehicles -- Federal regulations will require that new diesel engines be much cleaner after 2007 or at the very least adding pollution control devices to existing vehicles.

As citizens in one of the wealthiest states, we have the added obligation to take care of those who have not benefited and indeed often pay the highest price for our economic success. Please, make a real difference not a phony change on paper alone.

Sincerely,

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