

July 07, 2007

Dear California Air Resources Board,

I am a California Operating Engineer. I have been a California Operating Engineer for nearly 30 years. Operating big equipment is all I have ever done. Over the years, many new rules and regulations have come to be. At this time, there are new regulations that CARB has proposed that will have a profound impact on me, along with all of the other Operating Engineers and Contractors in California.

If my understanding is correct, the new regulations will force California contractors and equipment owners to park, sell or scrap their older equipment (Tier 0), most of which have a lot of life left in them. The balance of their current equipment (Tier 1 & Tier 2) will have to be upgraded to the current Tier 3 technology, which in itself will be extremely expensive. As soon as the Tier 4 technology is developed, contractors and equipment owners will again be forced to upgrade their Tier 3 engines to Tier 4.

To me this doesn't make any sense. The new regulations will wipe out most of my potential employers along with many other California businesses. This will surely cause a snowball effect that will have no end on the California economy.

Should this regulation be passed by CARB as it is written, it will force contractors to layoff workers, who will in turn lose healthcare benefits for themselves and their families, very possibly forcing them into the welfare system, losing their homes and who knows what else.

I feel that CARB needs to move forward in the reduction of emissions and not backwards and I hope that you will consider my opinion when making your decision on the proposed new regulations.

Thank you,
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