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JOEL ANDERSON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

June 18, 2007

Catherine Witherspoon
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
PO Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Witherspoon:

I write this letter to request that the California Air Resources Board allow five additional years for implementation of the proposed off-road diesel equipment emission standards that are currently under review.

The major issue with CARB's proposed regulations is that the technology that is necessary for off-road diesel equipment to be in compliance with the rules is not available at a price that most companies in the industry can afford. It is estimated that the new regulations will cost the industry over $9 Billion to purchase new equipment or retrofit their current fleets.

Additionally, CARB would impose a $5,000 to $25,000 fine for each engine that is in violation of the regulations. Clearly, CARB's proposal will have a devastating impact on California's construction companies which employ nearly one million citizens in the Golden State.

The board's goal in setting these standards is a noble one. All Californians want cleaner air. In fact, California's construction industry has already begun to use newer, less toxic equipment to achieve that end. Contractors in Southern California have voluntarily replaced more that 1,000 high polluting engines, resulting in a reduction of more than 3,787 tons of pollution every year.

Extending the implementation timeframe by five years will allow engine manufacturers time to catch up with California's progressive air quality standards and help amortize the massive expense of purchasing new equipment over a longer of period time.

Allowing five more years for implementation will save California's contractors from having to pass the extra financial burden on to their consumers, and in many cases, save their businesses.

Sincerely,

Joel Anderson
Assemblyman

Cc:
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Lori Andreoni, Clerk of the Air Resources Board