



Siskiyou County Farm Bureau

November 19, 2008

California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear CARB,

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is currently considering the adoption of an on-road diesel truck and bus regulation that, if implemented as presently drafted would have a profound, negative impact on California's economy.

I want to be clear: *Siskiyou County Farm Bureau* is very supportive of reducing particulate matter (PM) and NOx emissions from diesel engines. There is no disagreement that we need to work collectively to improve the state's air quality and all of us want to provide as healthy an environment as possible for our families, our employees and all Californians. However, in its current form, the Board's proposed regulation places a significant economic risk on our business today, jeopardizes our future viability in the agriculture industry, which is already reeling from unprecedented financial turmoil.

CARB is proposing this multi-billion dollar regulation during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. California truckers, construction companies and bus operators are struggling to make ends meet in the face of a massive slow down in the construction sector due to falling home prices and home foreclosures, declining consumer confidence and spending and a freeze in the credit markets. Today there is virtually no access to capital for businesses, large and small.

Many of California's trucking companies have already begun the process of retrofitting or replacing their fleets, whether in the normal course of their business cycle or in anticipation of these regulations. However, the smaller owner/operators – those with fleets of five trucks or less – who make up more than 55 percent of all trucks registered in the state, will be severely hampered by the costs of retrofitting or replacing trucks that, in some cases, are the sole assets of their family-owned businesses.

We must be careful not to forfeit California's economy and ability to move goods across the state, build construction projects and bus our children to and from school for the sake of protecting our environment. (I/We) look forward to working with you, CARB, environmental organizations, the Legislature and other stakeholders to accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,

Jim Morris
Siskiyou County Farm Bureau
President