

Corey Wardlaw  
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From what I gather from the agenda, we are here today because the economy is in the tank and emissions are lower than expected. I am thankful that the Air Resources Board is recognizing these conditions and I encourage the members to approve the proposed amendments to the on-road diesel emission regulations.

I also would like to ask the Board to consider further amendments pertaining to the particulate matter filters for owner-operators of single truck operations such as myself. In light of independent research by Sierra Research, which the Board is respectfully asked to include in its analysis of particulate-matter regulation, a reprieve from the cost of retro-fitting or purchasing a new truck is, in my opinion, the only thing that will allow me to continue making a living as a small business man in California.

Chairwoman Nichols, about a year ago you asked me when I would be able to meet the requirements of the on-road truck rule. I half-jokingly said "ask me again in a couple of years." My answer today is 2 years after the economy returns to 2004-2005 levels.

I am not sure when the economy will get back to those levels, but I do know as of today and the near future, we do not have any money for a down payment or for moving the dump body and other equipment to a new truck. We are not making enough money to cover a monthly truck payment or the additional cost of running a new truck, including higher fuel costs due to lower fuel economy, maintenance costs of the DPF and SCR units, etc. On top of all these additional costs, rates in the dump truck industry have gone down due to fewer jobs. Competition is tough in this economy as we all scrap for the few construction-related jobs available.

Considering how little work is available, there is no way that we can afford CARB's requirements. Even if we were offered financing, we have no way to make the monthly payments until the construction industry comes back to its previous levels.

I CAN'T express strongly enough the need for more flexibility to meet the truck rule requirements I feel I'm between a rock and a hard place. My economic reality and Mandated retrofit or replacement. If something does NOT change I will go out a business