

DEAR DIRECTOR

I WANT TO POSE A QUESTION FOR YOU. AFTER READING my situation WHAT WOULD YOU DO? PLEASE READ ON.

I AM 63½ YEARS YOUNG, IN PRETTY GOOD HEALTH AND EXPECT TO WORK ANOTHER 6-7 YEARS GOD WILLING. I HAVE NO SAVINGS ACCOUNT. I QUALIFY FOR ABOUT \$1,200.00 PER MONTH SOC. SECURITY. I HAVE A LARGE MORTGAGE NOT MUCH EQUITY.

I'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR MYSELF 35 YEARS. THE LOGGING BUSINESS I'M IN IS LOW PROFITABILITY. I'VE BOUGHT AND SOLD (AND LOSS THRU BANKRUPTCY) QUITE A FEW PIECES OF EQUIPMENT AS NEEDED FOR VARIOUS JOBS, ALWAYS USED AS CHEAP AS POSSIBLE.

THE RUMOR I'M HEARING THRU VARIOUS SOURCES IS THAT THE NEW AIR RESOURCE IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE BEING PUT INTO PLACE WILL COST ME 10-20 THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PIECE.

I ONLY OWN ONE PIECE OF EQUIP THAT I PAID 20 THOUSAND FOR WHEN IT WAS NEW TO ME. YOUR TELLING ME IN ESSENCE TO RE-PURCHASE MY FLEET.

I EXPECTED TO SELL MY EQUIPMENT AS I RETIRED AND THUS HAVE A SAVINGS ACCOUNT. WITH THESE REGULATIONS YOU ARE CONSIDERING, HANGING LIKE A CLOUD OVER MY EQUIPMENT. I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SELL THEM. IN ADDITION IN A COUPLE OF YEARS I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THEM EITHER. I WILL OWN A FLEET OF PAPER WEIGHTS; SCRAP METAL I SUPPOSE.

THIS REAL OR PERCEIVED PROBLEM OF CLEAN^{AIR} WASN'T CREATED IN 2-3 YEARS. IT HAS BUILT UP OVER THE LIFE CYCLE

It seems impractical to my way of thinking to try to fix this problem in a short time without bankrupting people. It seems to me that this problem should be addressed at the factory manufacturer & rental fleet levels. Older equipment should be allowed to run its course until it is totally unpractical to fix, phase this solution in.

Possibly a smog test with new technology standards for new equipment and lower standards for older equipment.

OR

Possibly a fuel tax for carbon credits on older equipment (pick a year or tax incrementally more on the older equip as it ages).

Dealers should be required to make sure equipment they sell can meet new smog standards on new and the minimum smog standards on used equipment they sell.

What is happening is overkill. I own 2 logging trucks, 2 rubber tired log loaders, 1 track log loader, 1 dozer, 1 rubber tired skidder and 3 pickups. Out of all these in any given hour only one or two of these are operating. I normally work by myself and once in a blue moon have a helper. Oh yes a backhoe also!

I use every piece of my equipment each year depending on the terrain my jobs are on.

I can't comply, I can't sell, in a couple years I can't operate them.

Again I ask! What would you do?

Respectfully
Ronald L. Sandberg