

8-11-304
Nancy Wu
Oakland CA

Dear Chairman Nichols,

My name is Nancy Wu. I am a student at Oakland High School. I am writing to you about the importance of having a good truck rule that reduces diesel pollution. Diesel trucks are responsible for the particulate matter in California's air. Diesel particulate matter is the number one toxic air contaminant in California. Therefore, having a good truck rule that reduces diesel pollution is very important because it allows us to live a healthier life. Also, it reduces the chance of getting asthma. Even though I don't have any experiences with asthma, my community has a high rate of asthma. Many people in West Oakland have asthma due to the diesel trucks that pass through the community on the way to and from the Port of Oakland. Downtown Oakland, which is even closer to my house, also has a high rate of asthma because it is close to the truck routes. Asthma is not the only health problem associated with diesel pollution. Diesel particulate matter is responsible for premature deaths and lung cancer each year. In 1998, diesel particulate matter was responsible for 70% of all cancer risk created by toxic air pollution. What upsets me the most is that people who live in poor communities have a higher risk of getting asthma. This is not fair to the people living in the poor communities. Everyone has the right to live in a safe and healthy environment. People should not be deprived of the right to live in a safe and healthy environment because of their income level. In conclusion, we need to adopt a strong truck rule that protects community health.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wu