

8-11-324

V. Lang

Oakland CA

December 10, 2008

Dear Chairman Nichols,

My name is Vivian Wong, I am a student at Oakland High School. For the past month, there have been representatives from the Rose Foundation who have come to talk to my environmental science class about the diesel pollution happening in Oakland. They have told me about a law that could be passed on Friday, December 12, 2008. The law states that California will require a retrofit or replacement of every privately owned older, heavy-duty diesel truck on the road—even vehicles registered in other states and nations. If this law is passed, then about 85% of the particles in the air from these diesel trucks will disappear! This will benefit many people who live, work, or are just near a road where many large diesel trucks run by.

Although I do not live in an area where many diesel trucks run by, I still want this law to pass because it still affects me and my family. I will soon be moving to a house near a road where many diesel trucks frequently run by. Still, the Rose Foundation representative, told me that a person living in the range of a diesel truck route will be at a 55% chance higher of getting asthma than a person not living by a diesel truck route. This could affect my baby sister, because she will be growing up around a diesel truck route. I do not want her to suffer anymore, she already has to deal with having a club foot, and if she gets asthma, it could be pushing her health. That would be a lot to deal with for my family. Please take into consideration of those families that cannot afford to live near these diesel truck routes anymore. I hope you pass the law Chairman Nichols!

Sincerely,
V. Wong