

January 1, 2006

Dear Ms. Downes,

I am writing to you concerning the draft CT Diesel Plan. I can appreciate the amount of work that must have gone into the draft, but I am concerned that it seems to be lacking in clearly stated recommendations that legislators will need to debate the issue.

The whole reason for this plan, which was spawned by the CT Climate Action Plan, is to reduce greenhouse gases. I sat through many of those public hearings and came away impressed with the comprehensiveness of the Climate Action Plan's approach. All sectors were required to do their share. Reducing deisel emissions, as you surely know, is a huge part of that.

My point is if we're going to do this, let's do it right. Diesel engines must shoulder their responsibility. Make the recommendations to the Environment Committee as strict as possible and focused on reducing emissions (as opposed to offsets). Keep the options broad. Both of these will help the Committee in their deliberations.

Here are some suggestions:

School Bus Diesel Pollution should be addressed

As a teacher, I do bus duty, and watch kids load buses belching emissions, some of which make it into the bus itself. Let's clean up existing buses and get rid of the oldest ones outright.

Same for City Buses

The same logic for cleaning up school fleets applies to these buses. Besides, our cities could use all the help in air quality they can get.

Same for Garbage Trucks

Again, clean up the existing trucks and ditch the old ones.

Construction Equipment

On-road diesel fuel and basic pollution controls should be applied to equipment used on state projects.

Polluters should pay: I support using a fuel tax to create a fund to clean up diesel engines.

Again, my thanks and appreciation for all your hard work.

Andy Bauer
Portland, CT 06480