

January 2, 2006

Patricia,

As a father of two school age children who have asthma, I feel compelled to comment on the current draft of the Connecticut Diesel Plan. The connection between children's increased instances of asthma attacks and exposure to environment pollutants caused by diesel emissions is clear and irrefutable. My two boys spend an hour and a half every school day riding the bus. They also are on the bus when the buses stop and load students from another school. During this stop the buses are on and idling, creating unhealthy air quality in the bus and in the environment in general. The CT Diesel Plan needs to specifically address this issue by creating a plan that cleans up not only school buses, but all vehicles that run on diesel.

Voluntary recommendations are not enough. Strict measures that specifically detail a timetable of when cleaner running vehicles must be used should be included in the plan. New vehicles must meet stricter standards and old vehicles must be cleaned up.

Thank you,

Chris Petersen
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