

January 2, 2006

I am writing to request that DEP tighten its draft proposal for reducing diesel emissions. I have vivid memories, from childhood and early adulthood, of long bus trips and the pervasive smell of dizzying polluted air trailing from, and inside, those vehicles. Must new generations of young people in our country, and in this state, be subjected to the ticking time-bomb that this poisonous fuel poses? I now can afford not to have to use the bus, but many people don't have that luxury. The State of Connecticut can do better; we can choose to decisively lead the way toward environmentally-safe and people-friendly energy policy. What you have proposed, so far, does not go far enough toward establishing specific mandatory safeguards, replacing dirty technologies with clean ones, protecting the most vulnerable population groups from toxin-induced disease, and finding creative solutions to the energy crisis we all face. I say: back to the drawing board, and get it right this time. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely, Rabbi Seth Riemer