



February 13, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chairman, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Betty McCollum, Ranking Member, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Re: Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Funding for EPA Diesel Emissions Reductions Grants

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chairman Calvert, and Ranking Member McCollum:

Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) is a national organization that brings together the nation's nearly 90 *Clean Cities* coalitions and their 15,000 stakeholders in the clean transportation industry to advance policies that will reduce American dependence on petroleum-based fuels. We would like to thank you for your ongoing investments in the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program and request your continued support of these grants. Specifically, we ask that you include the House-recommended level of \$75 million for the DERA program in the final version of the FY 2018 appropriations legislation. In addition, we urge you to include \$100 million for the program when considering the FY 2019 Interior Appropriations bill later this spring.

Nearly 73,000 pieces of clean diesel technology have been funded by DERA grants since the program's inception, not only strengthening America's manufacturing economy, but improving the health of our nation. The EPA estimates that every dollar spent on diesel emissions reduction returns \$13 in health benefits, and since millions of Americans live where diesel emissions from older, heavily polluting diesel engines are often concentrated, we cannot afford to halt the progress. There remain at least 10 million older diesel engines currently in use that have yet to be retrofitted, repowered, or replaced. So now is the time to increase our investment in this critical program.

As you know, the DERA program enjoys strong bipartisan support. As House Committee reports since 2015 have noted, it "is the only EPA air program that has been reauthorized by Congress." The economic, public health, and environmental benefits are well-documented. Again, we urge your Subcommittees to provide \$75 million for the DERA program in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$100 million in Fiscal Year 2019 to ensure its continued success.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have questions or want more information concerning this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Spofforth".

Sam Spofforth
President

Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) is a national, non-profit policy and education organization that brings *Clean Cities* coalition leaders together with the clean transportation industry to advance policies that will reduce American dependence on petroleum-based fuels. Since 1993, the nearly 90 *Clean Cities* coalitions and their 15,000 stakeholders have played a leading role in implementing local programs and projects to deploy alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure that has reduced petroleum consumption by more than 9.5 billion gallons.

Helping Clean Cities coalitions, and working toward American energy independence since 1999.

www.TransportationEnergyPartners.org