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California Public Health, Science-Based and Environmental Organizations Voice Support for the Statewide Diesel Truck & Bus Rule at CARB Hearing

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has an obligation to provide safe, clean air to all Californians and the statewide diesel truck rule is critical to meeting that obligation. These are difficult economic times and our heart goes out to all who are struggling. Indeed, these are especially tough times for those who suffer health problems. Toxic diesel pollution causes cancer and other severe illnesses that carry a huge economic burden for families.

Diesel trucks and buses are the single-largest source of toxic diesel pollution in the state, producing 40 percent of particulate matter and 50 percent of smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions from diesel. The rule will protect thousands of lives and save California far more than it will ever cost. In addition, this rule is generating green jobs by spurring the development of industries that manufacture cleaner engine technologies.

We recognize that reduced trucking activity due to the recession has resulted in reduced diesel emissions in the short-term, but not enough to meet clean air targets. It is important that CARB staff fully analyze the health and emissions impacts of the proposed options for amending the rule, as directed by the Board today. Providing economic relief to the trucking industry need not come on the backs of vulnerable communities most severely impacted by diesel pollution. Any changes to the rule must protect the health benefits as the Board originally envisioned, keep California on track to meeting federal clean air deadlines, and ultimately provide clean, healthy air for all Californians.

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