



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 19, 2013

The Honorable David Borden, Chairman
House Science, Technology and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 508 relative to the idling of diesel locomotives

Dear Chairman Borden and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) in pleased to offer testimony in support of House Bill 508 establishing limitations on the idling of diesel locomotives.

Diesel exhaust is classified as a likely human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency. Therefore, reducing exposure to diesel exhaust is a sound environmental policy. Locomotives typically idle for two reasons. First, the engines are water cooled and, therefore, need to remain at a temperature above freezing to avoid damage to the engine. Second, the engine is used to maintain pressure on the locomotive's hydraulic systems, which include the brakes. Fortunately, technology is available that can eliminate the need for most idling. Two such technologies include electric shore power and small diesel auxiliary power units, both of which can prevent freezing and maintain necessary hydraulic pressure.

DES also supports the amendment proposed by the sponsor that changes the enforcement of the idling limitations. Idling typically occurs intermittently, often during non-business hours and overnight. While supportive of reducing all unnecessary idling, due to limited staff and funding, DES is limited in our ability to conduct on-site inspections to document any alleged non-compliance with this requirement. The proposed amendment enables local officials to enforce the idling restrictions. These officials are able to be more responsive to the issue as they are located closer to the source and can respond in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact Craig A. Wright, Acting Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, craig.wright@des.nh.gov) or Rebecca Ohler, Transportation and Energy Programs Manager, Air Resources Division (271-6749, rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: HB 307 Sponsors