



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 2, 2013

The Honorable Jim Rausch, Chairman
Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 508 relative to the idling of diesel locomotives

Dear Chairman Rausch and Members of the Committee:

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

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Telephone: (603) 271-1370 • Fax: (603) 271-1381 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

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,



for

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner