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October 27, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As advocates for clean air and healthy communities, we write to call on you to include the funding necessary to achieve full compliance with the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2006 (DERA) in the 2017-2018 Executive Budget proposal. Full funding and implementation ensures that the promise made to New York's citizens upon the passage of DERA- that the State will clean up its own dirty diesel, is finally fulfilled.

DERA, originally set to be fully implemented by 2010, has been repeatedly (and now it seems routinely) delayed. DERA's requirement that the State and its contractors operate a cleaner fleet of diesel trucks by controlling exhaust emissions or replacing old trucks with newer vehicles is imperative to ensure New York State's citizens have healthy air to breathe. Diesel emissions are made up of fine particulate matter -microscopic particles that can lodge themselves in the lungs and are linked to a number of serious public health problems including lung cancer, premature deaths, and asthma attacks, especially in environmental justice communities. Over 1.4 million adults and 315,000 children suffer from asthma in New York, and it costs taxpayers \$1.3 billion each year to treat. Now is the time to fulfill the State's promise to take accountability for their part in New York State's air pollution.

We trust that you agree that the science on diesel pollution is clear and compelling. Thus, the delays that you have agreed to in past years consign New Yorkers, particularly those most vulnerable to the health effects of diesel exhaust -children, people with lung and heart disease, and seniors - to another year of illness and in some cases premature death. We ask that you end this practice and clean up all diesels as per DERA.

We support your recent call for the federal government to continue its progress on cutting diesel pollution to protect public health and the environment. However, we point out that there is much New York can do on its own, starting with the final implementation of DERA. New York's call to action will be strengthened when we can show that as a state, our hands are clean. After all, how can New York hope for stricter national standards when we fail to fully implement our own diesel pollution laws?

Ten years waiting for diesel cleanup is long enough. DERA must finally be fully implemented, and dirty diesel vehicles must be taken out of service. We appreciate your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you to ensure clean air for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Julie Hart
American Cancer Society Cancer
Action Network

Willie J. White
Executive Director
AVillage..., Inc.

Grace Nichols
Bethlehem Ecodefense

Adrienne Esposito
Executive Director
Citizen's Campaign for the
Environment

Bradley M. Campbell
President
Conservation Law Foundation

Felipe Floresca & Maggie Tishman
Vice President & Director
Emerald Cities Collaborative

Peter Iwanowicz
Executive Director
Environmental Advocates of New
York

Jim Tripp
Environmental Defense Fund

Richard Schrader
Natural Resources Defense Council

Jim Lyon
Vice President for Conservation
National Wildlife Federation

McGregor Smyth
Executive Director
New York Lawyers for the Public
Interest

Russ Haven
Legislative Counsel
New York Public Interest Research
Group

Eddie Bautista
Executive Director
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

Diana Wright
People of Albany United for Safe Energy

Shannon Gearhart, MD
MPH Chapter Executive Board Member
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Lynne Jackson
Save the Pine Bush

John Funciello
Chairman
Solidarity Committee of the Capital District

Bill Lipton
Working Families Party

Cc:

Rosemary Powers, Deputy Director of State Operations
Robert Mujica, Director, Division of the Budget
Kate Dineen, Assistant Secretary for the Environment
Jim Malatras, Director of State Operations
Venetia Lannon, Deputy Secretary for the Environment
Rajiv Shah, Senior Policy Advisor for the Environment
Zachary Knaub, Assistant Counsel to the Governor