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Dear Mayor and City Council members,

We are writing to you regarding an important community public health, environmental and economic initiative. Idling is the operation of a vehicle's engine while it is stopped. Personal automobiles may idle for short amounts of time. However, trucks, busses and some vehicles that use diesel fuel may idle for longer durations during loading and unloading, providing service, supplying heat or cooling for the driver or passengers, or merely when the vehicle is not moving.

Many states and municipalities have passed or are considering idle reduction ordinances to improve public health and air quality, reduce noise, improve quality of life and save fuel. There are many legal, technical and educational solutions to reduce engine idling. We are asking you to consider adopting idle reduction legislation for your community. Sample ordinances from the cities of Cleveland and South Euclid are enclosed.

Here are some important idling facts to consider:

-reducing diesel idling will improve public health and our local air quality. Particulates, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and over 40 hazardous air pollutants are present in diesel emissions. Nitrogen oxides react with ozone to create smog, and carbon dioxide contributes to Global Warming. Fine particle pollution in diesel exhaust can aggravate asthma, allergies, chronic bronchitis and other health concerns. Idle reduction will reduce residential neighborhood, passenger and driver exposure to harmful toxics and their health impacts.

-reducing diesel idling will help save operating expenses for fuel costs (one hour of idling consumes one gallon of diesel fuel) and maintenance, and lengthen engine life.

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact either John McGovern or Chris Trepal. We have additional information, resources, and are available to meet with you and your city representatives.

If you have passed idle reduction legislation or are considering such legislation please let us know. We are keeping a database and hope to publicize our region's important efforts to improve public health and save resources. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

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Mission
 Earth Day Coalition provides education,
 inspires leadership, and encourages action
 for a healthy environment. Est.1990

