

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146-A, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Mikulski, Chairman Murkowski, and Ranking Member Udall:

We write today concerning the pending appropriation in fiscal year 2017 for the EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program ("DERA"). We believe that DERA provides us with a win-win in environmental and economic benefits, and request your continued support in reducing the nation's heavy-duty diesel vehicle emissions through this program. We hope that you will fund the program at the current level as appropriated in fiscal year 2016.

Our nation relies heavily on diesel power to transport commuters, harvest our crops, and build our infrastructure. There are millions of older diesel vehicles currently in use and they lack modern pollution control technology. Retrofitting these older diesel vehicles' engines with American-made technology can dramatically reduce harmful emissions. New and retrofitted diesel engines are much cleaner than older, non-retrofitted diesel engines – over 90% cleaner.

Enacted through the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DERA uses Federal funding to leverage State and private funding sources to finance the voluntary installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles. DERA has enjoyed overwhelming bi-partisan support since its enactment. In 2005, DERA passed the Senate by a vote of 92 to 1. In 2010, the DERA reauthorization bill passed unanimously in the Senate and by voice vote in the House. Last month, the Senate approved by unanimous consent an amendment that would reauthorize the program at \$100 million each year through fiscal year 2021.

Since 2005, DERA has become one of the most cost-effective Federal programs for cleaner air. The EPA estimates that the program has upgraded nearly 73,000 vehicles or pieces of equipment, and saved over 450 million gallons of fuel. The EPA also estimates that every \$1 in Federal assistance is met with another \$3 in private matching funds, and generates \$5 to \$21 in health and economic benefits. As a result, DERA effectively improves air quality, protects human health, and creates jobs using American technology. It is a true win-win-win.

Although we appreciate dedication to reducing the Federal deficit, we do not believe it makes sense to decrease funding for successful, bipartisan programs like DERA that help drive our economy and protect our environment. We are also fearful that any decrease in funding levels would prevent many States from taking advantage of the program because the EPA is currently overwhelmed with more DERA applications than it can fund. This is why we are asking you to provide level funding for DERA in fiscal year 2017. Although, this level would not fully meet the great demand that currently exists and would remain below the program's authorization level of \$100 million, it would at least provide a modicum of funding for the remaining work that needs to be done.

At a time when our country continues to look for ways to create good manufacturing jobs and clean the environment, DERA stands out as a prime example of a program that works on many levels. Thank you very much for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



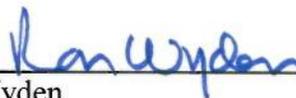
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



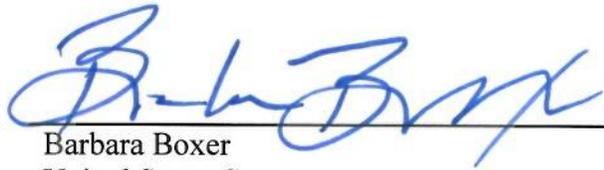
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



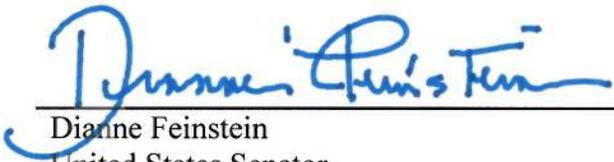
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



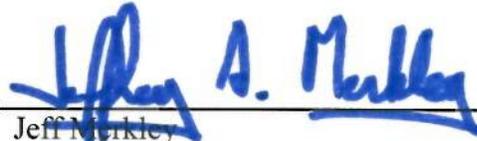
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United States Senator



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United States Senator



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Jeff Merkley
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Gary Peters
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