



February 14, 2022

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Chairman, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Re: Fiscal Year 2024 EPA Diesel Emissions Reductions Grants

Dear Chairman Merkley, Ranking Member Murkowski, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree:

Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) is a national organization that brings together the nation's 75 *Clean Cities* coalitions and our 20,000 stakeholders in the clean transportation industry to advance policies that will reduce American dependence on petroleum-based fuels. We would like to thank you for your ongoing investments in the US EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program and request your continued support of these grants. Specifically, we urge you to include \$150 million for the program when considering the FY 2023 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.

Through 2018, EPA DERA grants have retrofitted or replaced nearly 74,000 engines in vehicles, vessels, locomotives, or other pieces of equipment. According to the EPA, each federal dollar invested in clean diesel projects has leveraged more than \$2 from other public and private entities and generated more than \$20 in public health benefits. EPA estimates the total present value of monetized health benefits over the lifetime of the affected engines as \$8.0 billion, including up to 850 fewer premature deaths. Since millions of Americans live where diesel emissions from older, heavily polluting diesel engines are often concentrated, we must maintain this progress. There remain at least 10 million older, heavily polluting diesel engines currently in use that have yet to be retrofitted, repowered, or replaced. So now is the time to increase our investment in this critical program.

As you know, the DERA program enjoys strong bipartisan support. The economic, public health, and environmental benefits are well-documented. Again, we to urge your Subcommittees to provide \$150 million for the DERA program in Fiscal Year 2024 to ensure its continued success.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have questions or want more information concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Alleyn Harned
President

Ken Brown
Executive Director

Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) is a national, non-profit policy and education organization that brings *Clean Cities* coalition leaders together with the clean transportation industry to advance policies that will reduce American dependence on petroleum-based fuels. Since 1993, the 75 *Clean Cities* coalitions and their 20,000 stakeholders have played a leading role in implementing local programs and projects to deploy alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure that have reduced petroleum consumption by more than 14.5 billion gallons.

Helping Clean Cities coalitions and working toward American energy independence since 1999.

www.TransportationEnergyPartners.org