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Public Health Groups Weigh in on CTA's Rollout of Hybrid Buses

*Statement of Brian Urbaszewski,
Director of Environmental Health Programs,
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Co-Founder, Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution*

"While CTA's purchase of 150 new low-polluting hybrid buses will help clear the air a bit, CTA is still failing to implement simple measures that would drastically reduce emissions from the hundreds of buses already on the streets.

Currently, CTA has 2,100 diesel buses. Yet only 30 percent of CTA's diesel bus fleet is equipped with diesel particulate filters that can eliminate over 90 percent of fine particles (or soot) from a bus tailpipe. Exposure to fine particulate matter is known to cause lung cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and premature death.

The slow pace at which CTA is cleaning up its diesel bus fleet is unacceptable. CTA's diesel bus fleet remains one of the dirtiest in the nation and Chicago continues to lag behind other major cities such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and Dallas in cleaning up its transit bus fleet.

At the rate CTA is going, nearly 1,000 CTA buses could be operating for another decade without diesel particulate filters. Modernizing a small portion of CTA's fleet isn't enough. CTA must clean up the rest of its bus fleet in order to protect the health of their customers, neighbors, and staff."

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The Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution is a statewide campaign led by the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) and Citizen Action/Illinois. The campaign represents over 60 public health, labor, community and environmental organizations committed to reducing diesel pollution in Illinois.

Chicago's Lung Health
Leader Since 1906

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