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ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN
TO CLEAN UP
D I E S E L
POLLUTION



RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATIONSM
of Metropolitan Chicago

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Advocates applaud Cook County Board approval of Green Construction Ordinance

CHICAGO--May 19, 2009--The Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution, a coalition led by Citizen Action/Illinois and Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC), congratulates the Cook County Board of Commissioners on passing the Green Construction Ordinance, sponsored by President Stroger and Commissioners Maldonado, Murphy and Silvestri, at the board meeting today.

The ordinance will require all Cook County contractors working on public construction contracts, budgeted at \$2 million or more, to use ultra clean diesel fuel and pollution controls that remove up to 90 percent of exhaust soot from their diesel vehicles and equipment.

“Reducing diesel pollution from construction vehicles and equipment is an effective strategy in improving the County’s air quality, which currently violates federal health standards for fine particulate matter,” said Brian Urbaszewski, Director of Environmental Health Programs at RHAMC. “We are excited to see the Commissioners taking action to clear the air in the County,” added Urbaszewski.

Reducing diesel pollution will protect the public’s health. Diesel exhaust is known to cause numerous health problems, including lung cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and premature death. In the Chicago Metropolitan area alone, it is estimated that diesel soot causes 755 deaths, 1,021 heart attacks, 476 cases of chronic bronchitis, and 17,017 asthma attacks each year. Reducing diesel pollution is also an effective strategy in mitigating global warming. Black carbon from diesel exhaust, pound for pound, is 500 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

“Cook County is one of the few local governments in the country to adopt a green construction policy,” remarked Emily Stuart, Organizer, for Citizen Action/Illinois. “We applaud the Cook County Commissioners in choosing to spend the public’s money wisely in order to protect our health and environment,” added Stuart.

“We are hopeful the City of Chicago and many other local governments will soon take similar steps to require the use of cleaner diesel construction equipment and trucks on publicly-funded construction projects,” stated Urbaszewski.

**Chicago’s Lung Health
Leader Since 1906**

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SPRINGFIELD

**ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN
TO CLEAN UP
DIESEL
POLLUTION**



**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
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of Metropolitan Chicago

Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution is a coalition of more than 70 public health, environmental, labor and community organizations, led by Citizen Action/Illinois and Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, working to reduce diesel pollution in Illinois to protect public health and prevent global warming.

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today the Association fights lung disease and promotes healthy lungs by supporting research, advocacy, and educational efforts on behalf of individuals and families affected by lung cancer, asthma, COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and other lung diseases. For more information, visit www.lungchicago.org.

Citizen Action/Illinois was formed in 1997 to work on behalf of the public interest both in Springfield and Washington, DC and is built on a tradition of strong grassroots citizen organizations— in labor, the communities, and in the progressive movement. Citizen Action/Illinois is the state's largest public interest organization and a progressive political coalition committed to creating social change both in Illinois and across the nation.

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