



CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE

**Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates ~ ~ Breathe California ~  
Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters ~  
Carolinas Clean Air Coalition ~ Casco Baykeeper ~ Friends of Casco Bay ~  
Citizen Action – Illinois ~ Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) ~  
Clean Water Action – National ~ Clean Water Action Alliance of Massachusetts ~  
Clean Water Action – PA ~ Clean Water Action Connecticut ~  
Clean Water Action Rhode Island ~ Coalition for Clean Air ~  
Coalition For A Safe Environment ~ Communities for Clean Ports ~ Environment Northeast ~  
Group Against Smog and Pollution ~ Gulf Islands Alliance ~ NJ Environmental Federation ~  
Oceana ~ Public Citizen Texas Office ~ Respiratory Health Association of  
Metropolitan Chicago ~ Sierra Club ~ Travel Just ~ Sustainable Energy and Economic  
Development (SEED) Coalition ~ West Oakland Indicators Project**

July 3, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
The Honorable Hilda L. Solis  
The Honorable Jane Harman  
The Honorable Lois Capps

Re: Support for Marine Vessels Emissions Reduction Act of 2007

Dear Senator/Representative -----

Friends of the Earth, Clean Air Task Force and the following 28 organizations are writing to thank you and express our support for the Marine Vessels Emissions Reduction Act of 2007 *Senate (S1499)/House (HR2548)*. This legislation is timely and important because it will require all ships calling on U. S. ports to use cleaner marine fuels and engines in order to cut air pollution that harms public health and the environment.

The bill addresses a serious and growing public health and environmental problem. Although international shipping contributes significantly to the global economy, it also produces large amounts of air pollution—by recent estimates, up to 30 percent of global emissions of nitrogen oxides and 16 percent of global sulfur dioxide emissions from petroleum sources. Moreover, shipping emissions are growing rapidly, and are expected to double in North American waters over the next decade. Because the vast majority of shipping emissions occur in coastal areas near shore, millions of people—some living hundreds of miles from the coast—are exposed to deadly diesel exhaust from ships. These emissions have severe health impacts, causing respiratory illness, cancer, heart disease and premature death.

This bill will help save lives in the diesel death zones near port communities on the West Coast, the East Coast, the Gulf Coast and the Great Lakes. It will also benefit people outside of port areas as these emissions impact communities such as Santa Barbara that don't have ports but are located near shipping lanes and those far inland where pollution blows onshore.

This bill is also needed because no action has been taken to institute meaningful federal and global standards for ocean-going emissions – instead the potential for updated standards has recently been

delayed by a year or more by both the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International Maritime Organization.

After promising to act by April 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency instead delayed adoption of any new regulations for ship engines indefinitely. The delay was made public a week after international regulators gave into pressure from the oil industry and delayed any decision on new ship emissions limits until 2008 at the earliest—in fact, even further delay is possible. Stricter air pollution standards for ships were originally due by July 2007 from the International Maritime Organization

Establishing a national standard for marine fuels will provide a level playing field for U. S. ports and shippers that conduct trade with the U. S. It also sends a signal to international players that the U. S. intends to protect its citizens and environment by regulating shipping emissions, giving more strength to the U. S. delegation's proposals at the International Maritime Organization.

In particular, we strongly support the provisions of the bill that apply the marine fuels and engine standards to foreign-flagged as well as U. S. vessels. As you know, more than 90 percent of ocean-going vessels that call on U.S. ports are flagged by other nations. We also support the marine fuels sulphur limit of 1,000 parts per million by 2010.

For engine standards, we urge you to consider adding language to set a specific reductions goal. Current after-treatment technology can reduce nitrogen oxides by 70 to 90 percent. Specifying the levels of reductions would give the U. S. EPA clear direction in the regulatory process.

Please also consider adding a definition that this legislation applies only to ocean-going vessels (Category 3) and does not apply to harborcraft (Category 1 and 2), which are already regulated under current and proposed federal regulations that require low-sulfur diesel and engine emissions reductions. This is an important distinction.

As written, we believe that the language in this bill preserves the state of California's authority to regulate air emissions under the Clean Air Act. As you know, it is critical that the state's authority is protected and would appreciate your vigilance on this point.

We urge you to initiate as soon as possible Congressional hearings and field hearings in port communities where people are most harmed by exposure to shipping pollution. Please let us know if we can help by providing contacts to testify at Congressional hearings such as shipping and public health experts, marine fuels and technology experts and air policy experts from U. S. and other agencies and governments. We may also be able to help turn out community, labor and environmental justice advocates for field hearings in key areas such as Los Angeles/Long Beach, Oakland, Seattle and New York/New Jersey and other East Coast and Gulf Coast ports.

Please let us know how we can further support your efforts to move this legislation.

Sincerely yours,



Teri Shore  
Friends of the Earth  
311 California St., Suite 510  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
415-544-0790, ext. 19

David Marshall  
Clean Air Task Force  
PO Box 950  
Henniker, NH 03242  
603-428-8114

Karen G. Pierce, President  
Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates  
Bayview Hunters Point Democratic Club  
San Francisco, CA

Andy Katz, MCP  
Breathe California  
2171 Junipero Serra Blvd., Suite 720  
Daly City, CA 94014  
650)-994-5868

Gershon Cohen Ph.D.  
Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters  
Earth Island Institute  
Box 956 Haines, Alaska, 99827  
907-766-3005

June Blotnick  
Carolinas Clean Air Coalition  
402 W. Trade Street, Suite 104  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
704-342-9161

Cathy L. Ramsdell, CPA,  
Friends of Casco Bay and  
Joseph E. Payne  
Casco Baykeeper®  
43 Slocum Drive  
South Portland, Maine 04106  
207-799-8574 x. 203

Cecile Carroll  
Citizen Action - Illinois  
28 E. Jackson, Suite #605  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
312-427-2114

John Hanger  
Heather Sage  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)  
610 N. Third St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-214-7920

Lynn Thorp  
Clean Water Action - National  
4455 Connecticut Ave NW, A300  
Washington, DC 20008-2328  
202-895-0420

Rebecca Lisi  
Clean Water Action Alliance of Massachusetts  
160 Main St. Suite 6  
Northampton MA 01060  
413-584-9830

Myron Arnowitt  
Clean Water Action - PA  
100 Fifth Ave., #1108  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-765-3053, ext. 203

Roger Smith  
Clean Water Action Connecticut  
645 Farmington Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-232-6232

Denise Parrillo  
Clean Water Action Rhode Island  
741 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401-331-6972

Tom Plenys  
Coalition for Clean Air  
811 West 7th Street  
Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213-630-1192

Jesse N. Marquez  
Coalition For A Safe Environment  
P. O. Box 1918  
Wilmington, CA 90744  
310-704-1265

Joel Bush  
Communities for Clean Ports  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
323-930-9117

Michael D. Stoddard  
Environment Northeast  
101 Brentwood Street  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-761-4566

Rachel Filippini  
Group Against Smog and Pollution

Wightman School Community Building  
5604 Solway St., #204  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412-325-7382

Christine Torgrimson, Chair  
Gulf Islands Alliance  
Vancouver  
British Columbia  
(250) 538-0199

Dr. Ross Klein  
School of Social Work  
St. John's College  
Memorial University  
St. John's, NF A1C 5S7 CANADA  
709-737-8147

Amy Goldsmith  
NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF)  
1002 Ocean Avenue  
Belmar, NJ 07719  
732-280-8988

Dana DuBose  
Oceana  
1351 Third Street, Suite 301  
Santa Monica, CA 90401 USA  
310- 899-3726

Tom Smith  
Beth O'Brien  
Public Citizen Texas Office  
1002 West Ave., Ste. 300  
Austin, TX 78701  
512-477-1155

Anna Frostic  
Brian Urbaszewski  
Respiratory Health Association of  
Metropolitan Chicago  
1440 W Washington Chicago, IL 60607  
312-628- 0202

John Holtzclaw  
Sierra Club  
Building Healthy Communities Committee  
San Francisco, CA  
415-977-5534

Howard Breen  
Travel Just  
Vancouver  
British Columbia  
250-247-8813

Karen Hadden  
Sustainable Energy and Economic Development  
(SEED) Coalition  
Westlake Dr. #209  
Austin, Texas 78746  
512-797-8481

Margaret Gordon  
West Oakland Indicators Project  
c/o Pacific Institute  
654 13th Street,  
Preservation Park  
Oakland, CA 94612  
1-510-251-1600