

**RESOLUTION OF THE STATES OF THE OZONE TRANSPORT COMMISSION REGARDING
INTERSTATE COOPERATION ON THE TESTING OF HEAVY DUTY
DIESEL-FUELED TRUCKS AND BUSES**

WHEREAS heavy duty diesel engines used in trucks and buses are a significant source of air pollutant emissions in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States of the Ozone Transport Region (OTR); and

WHEREAS these emissions contribute to pollution problems in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States such as ground-level ozone, fine particulates, regional haze, air toxics, and acid deposition; and

WHEREAS such engines in a poor state of repair emit higher levels of smoke, including particulate matter, than do those that are well-maintained; and

WHEREAS concerns about heavily smoking vehicles represent among the most common public complaints registered with State air pollution control agencies; and

WHEREAS the enforcement of smoke opacity standards is expected to result in the repair of poorly maintained or tampered heavy duty diesel vehicles, and to encourage proper long term maintenance of these vehicles; and

WHEREAS proper repairs and improved maintenance resulting from the enforcement of these standards will reduce heavy-duty diesel smoke emissions, including fine particulate emissions; and

WHEREAS available standardized repair protocols will help to encourage the optimization of overall air quality benefits of diesel engine repairs undertaken as a result of diesel vehicle testing programs; and

WHEREAS to address the public's concern over heavily smoking diesel engines and to reduce particulate emissions from these vehicles, several States in the OTR already have implemented, or soon will begin to implement, smoke opacity testing programs; and

WHEREAS States have started to standardize the test methods and smoke opacity test cutpoints utilized in diesel vehicle testing; and

WHEREAS there is significant interstate diesel vehicle traffic within the OTR; and

WHEREAS the benefits of diesel vehicle testing are maximized for both States and diesel vehicle owners if there are consistent testing and enforcement procedures among States implementing diesel vehicle testing programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OTC hereby endorses the testing of heavy duty on-road diesel trucks and buses; and

FURTHERMORE that the OTC hereby resolves that any diesel vehicle testing programs implemented in the OTR should be as consistent as possible, especially with respect to test procedures and smoke opacity test cutpoints; and

FURTHERMORE that diesel vehicle testing programs in the OTR should identify and utilize wherever possible repair protocols which encourage the reduction of both particulate emissions and emissions which cause ground-level ozone; and

FURTHERMORE that as States develop individual State programs, they should share information and encourage recognition of other States' compliance periods; and

FURTHERMORE that States are encouraged to make agreements to ensure consistency of specific diesel vehicle testing program elements.

Approved June 16, 1999