



The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

October 12, 2009

Dear Senator Brown,

The Ohio Environmental Council is writing to express our strong opposition to any rider on the FY 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill that will weaken, delay or limit the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations that will reduce pollution from marine compression-ignition engines at or above 30 liters per cylinder. Our organization strongly supports the cleanup of these vessels and their fuel because of the enormous impact they have on air pollution and public health.

There is an urgent need for these rules. The bunker fuel burned by these ships is among the dirtiest on Earth—with a sulfur content over 1500 times higher than that used by most other US diesels. EPA's analysis estimates that the cleanup of these ships will prevent up to 33,000 premature deaths each year by 2030. Any reduction in the geographic coverage or other weakening of the rules will reduce these health benefits. Furthermore, this proposal is one of the most cost-effective rules EPA has ever released. Projected public benefits exceed costs by a factor of 30—90:1, so any slight increase in compliance costs will be dwarfed by the public health benefits. While EPA's analysis shows that pollution from these sources clearly impacts communities surrounding the ports, areas hundreds of miles inland are also affected. Thus, pollution from ships traveling in the Great Lakes impacts millions of people living in the American heartland, including Cleveland, Toledo, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Chicago, Gary, Detroit, Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh.

EPA has conducted an extensive public process on marine compression-ignition engines, beginning in 2007 with an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and including a number of public hearings. And EPA's proposal largely implements international agreements on ship pollution reached in October 2008 and July 2009.

Senator Brown, please oppose any rider that will weaken, delay or limit the ability of the U.S Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations that will reduce pollution from marine compression-ignition engines at or above 30 liters per cylinder.

Sincerely,

*David R. Celebrezze*

David R. Celebrezze  
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Ohio Environmental Council