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2010 NOV 30 P 2:40

November 29, 2010

Environmental Quality Board  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
16th Floor  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301



To Whom It May Concern:

The American Highway Users Alliance is a 78-year old national federation of hundreds of non-profit associations, businesses, and motoring clubs. We represent the interests of highway users nationwide, whether they travel by car, bus, truck, RV, or motorcycle.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed rule to lower sulfur standards in home heating oil. We are concerned that the proposed standards could have some unintended negative consequences for highway diesel fuel users and ask that you consider our views and make changes to the proposed rule.

We request that the Environmental Quality Board take action to ensure that the new sulfur standard does not create market competition between highway fuel and home heating oil. Such competition could have a sharp price impact, cause seasonal price spikes, and create year-round supply problems that would harm both residents of oil-heated homes and the operators of diesel vehicles.

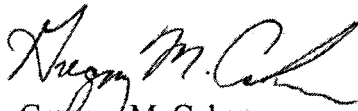
Given that Pennsylvania already has higher diesel taxes than any of its neighboring states, commercial drivers appreciate any effort to keep the price of fuels competitive. Keeping fuel prices reasonable within the Commonwealth helps the economy in a multitude of ways. It also helps Pennsylvania attract federal highway and public transit funds, because the federal distribution of such funds is largely based on the amount of fuel purchased within the state. If a home heating oil rule inadvertently caused diesel fuel price to spike, it would negatively impact sales at service stations and truck stops, and could have the unintended consequence of reducing the amount of federal funding for state highway and transit projects. Of course, if truck and bus operators seek to purchase their fuel in neighboring states, it would also negatively impact Pennsylvania's economy and the viability of a whole range of businesses.

The 15 ppm on-road diesel fuel standard is required to enable the emissions control technology of the newest generation of diesel engines and prevent engine problems. This same reasoning does not apply to home heating equipment, which does not utilize the same type of emissions control technology as highway vehicles. A more reasonable standard could still dramatically decrease sulfur emissions from home heating oil without the unintended consequences of market competition.

We ask that the Environmental Quality Board continue to use a separate heating oil standard that could reasonably be expected to be adopted by other states throughout the Northeast region. Further we ask that you do not include this regulation in your next air quality State Implementation Plan because it may be difficult to amend if the standard proves to be too problematic for the marketplace.

Thank you for your considering our views. We believe that the sulfur content in home heating oil could certainly be lowered in a thoughtful, flexible manner that helps improve the environment and limits economic impacts. We urge you to reconsider the current proposal and we would be pleased to work with you as you do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory M. Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Gregory M. Cohen  
President and CEO

Cooper, Kathy

**From:** Greg Cohen [gregcohen@highways.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 29, 2010 2:12 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Proposed Rulemaking to Lower Sulfur Standards in Home Heating Oil -- From: Greg Cohen, President & CEO, American Highway Users Alliance, 1101 14th St NW Ste 750, Washington DC 20005  
**Attachments:** AHUA Letter to EQB - Penna.PDF

Please see the attached PDF document for our comments on the proposed rule. For your convenience, the text of the letter is also below:

<<...>>

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- ORIGINAL SIGNED BY -

Gregory M. Cohen  
President and CEO