



June 11, 2019

The Honorable Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District
200 N Spring Street, Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File # 19-0604: Heavy-Duty Truck Idling Regulations / Parking Restriction / Ordinance: Support

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

The Coalition for Clean Air and Environment California are pleased to support your motion to restrict idling within the City of Los Angeles, as well as initiate an outreach and education campaign against the practice. If passed, Los Angeles will take a large step towards reducing emissions from the many cars and trucks that pollute the city.

California and Los Angeles are, without question, global leaders in climate policy and reducing emissions. Since 2008, the City of Los Angeles has reduced its annual greenhouse gas emissions by more than 6.5 million tons – a 40% reduction.ⁱ Additionally, Angelinos and residents of surrounding communities are breathing air that's cleaner than 30 years ago, reducing asthma incidents as a result.ⁱⁱ

Yet, despite this leadership, Los Angeles still suffers from some of the dirtiest air in the nation.ⁱⁱⁱ Diesel particulate matter (DPM) is responsible for over 85% of the toxic air contaminants in Wilmington and the East LA neighborhoods, and 35-46% of DPM in those communities is from on-road vehicles.^{iv,v} Additionally, the effectiveness of state and local climate policies and investments are threatened by emissions from the transportation sector. At least one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in Los Angeles County is from transportation – more than any other sector.^{vi} Furthermore, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation are only expected to grow.^{vii}

Given transportation's enormous role in Los Angeles's air quality and our broader climate crisis, it's important for all Angelinos to reduce their emissions impact. One strategy is to stop the practice of needlessly idling vehicles, such as when turning on a car in the morning or waiting to pick up children from school. Research has consistently found that it's less polluting and more fuel efficient to turn off a modern, fuel-injected vehicle than let it idle longer than 10 seconds. Additionally, the United State Department of Energy found idling annually wastes roughly 6 billion gallons of fuel and generates roughly 30 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.^{viii}

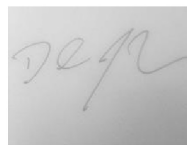
Fortunately, the Los Angeles City Council can take proactive steps to reduce wasteful idling. Nine states, including Texas, have laws and regulations that limit vehicle idling.^{ix} New York City has a three-minute idling limit that lowers to one minute around sensitive receptors.^x Additionally, New York City allows residents to submit complaints about idling vehicles as well as receive a financial award from the city.^{xi} An effective ordinance, couple with a good education campaign, can go a long way in reducing idling. After the enactment of an idling ordinance and subsequent education campaign, a Canadian community saw a 34% reduction in observed idling vehicles. A separate city in Canada saw the average amount of time vehicles idled decrease by more than half.^{xii}

Needlessly idling a vehicle is akin to running an air conditioner on full blast all day while away from home – it's polluting, wasteful and costly. Your motion is necessary to limit this wasteful practice and reduce emissions in the Los Angeles basin. For these reasons, we are in support of your motion.

Sincerely,



Chris Chavez
Deputy Policy Director



State Director
Environment California

ⁱ <https://www.lacitysan.org/san/sandocview?docname=cnt036554>

ⁱⁱ <https://news.usc.edu/157209/air-quality-asthma-los-angeles/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states/california/los-angeles.html>

^{iv} <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/wilmington/presentation-april11-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=9>

^v <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/east-la/presentation-apr25-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=8>

^{vi} http://climateaction.la/wp-content/themes/larc/report/AGreaterLA_ClimateActionFramework_Dec-19-2016-transportation.pdf

^{vii} <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-adv-california-climate-pollution-20180722-story.html>

^{viii} https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf

^{ix} <http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/putting-the-brakes-on-idling-vehicles.aspx>

^x <https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/description/idling-regulations>

^{xi} <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/environment/idling-citizens-air-complaint-program.page>

^{xii} <https://psmag.com/environment/american-idling-ecological-engine-running-3771>