



## **GROUP AGAINST SMOG & POLLUTION**

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Good afternoon. My name is Rachel Filippini and I'm the Executive Director of the Group Against Smog and Pollution. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

As you may know, the City of Pittsburgh passed clean construction legislation in the summer of 2016. Essentially the legislation requires that all city-funded construction projects of \$2.5M or more utilize the cleanest construction equipment possible. Our city and region's continued struggle with poor air quality was the impetus for this legislation. Diesel emissions contribute to our poor air quality and this is a tangible and proactive step the city can take to reduce air pollution.

Diesel particulate matter poses one of the greatest cancer risks from any toxic outdoor air pollutant in the region. In addition to causing cancer, diesel emissions cause asthma, heart attacks, strokes, reduced brain function, and diabetes.

Beyond being a public health risk, the black carbon found in diesel pollution is a potent global warming agent. Minimizing black carbon is directly in line with Pittsburgh's climate action plan.

According to the National Emissions Inventory, diesel-powered construction and mining equipment emitted over 130 tons of fine particulate matter in 2014 in Allegheny County. That amounts to approximately 27% of all fine particulate matter produced in Allegheny County in 2014 by all mobile diesel-powered sources and two-thirds of fine particulate matter produced by all mobile non-road diesel equipment.<sup>1</sup>

We think the City's clean construction legislation is important and helpful but unfortunately, because it only applies to city-funded projects, it has a limited impact. To have a greater impact we will need authorities, like the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), which undertakes considerably more construction activity than the City, to adopt a similar policy.

I am here today to request that the URA review the city's legislation and pass your own clean construction policy, ideally one that mirrors the city's legislation. UPMC, Chatham University, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy have all passed their own clean construction policies. The problem of air pollution and diesel emissions specifically is real, and we have solutions available that work and have been put in place here and there—now we just need more organizations, like the URA, to drive this change further.

My organization has expertise in this area and we would be happy to assist in any way possible to make this a reality.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your time today.

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<sup>1</sup> Construction sites and activities likely contribute more fine particulate matter because this figure does not take into account "industrial equipment" such as aerial lifts, "commercial equipment" such as generators, or any of the on-road diesel vehicles such as dump trucks and tractor-trailers needed to deliver the heavy equipment to the site.