

*For more information, please contact Clean Air Task Force representative John Young at 202.465.3000 or [jyoung@cjstrat.com](mailto:jyoung@cjstrat.com)*

## **Support Clean Diesel in the Transportation Reauthorization Bill**

New Infrastructure Investment Should Be a “Clean” Investment



Any new investment in our nation’s infrastructure as a part of the Transportation Reauthorization Bill should be a clean investment.

As the workhorse of our economy, diesel engines, especially construction equipment, will play a major role in building the next generation of infrastructure projects in our communities.

**The Problem:** Diesel pollution from all sectors is associated with numerous adverse health effects including lung cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, stroke, and an estimated 21,000 premature deaths each year in the United States. Pollution from diesel construction equipment poses a serious threat to communities and project workers alike. Heavy construction equipment operators face an increased risk of lung disease from their exposure to diesel exhaust. The black carbon soot in diesel exhaust also is recognized as a potent global warming agent, approximately 2000 times more potent than the equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year period.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, over 37 percent of land-based particulate matter comes from construction equipment. Nationwide, there are over 2 million pieces of construction equipment and most lack modern particulate pollution controls.

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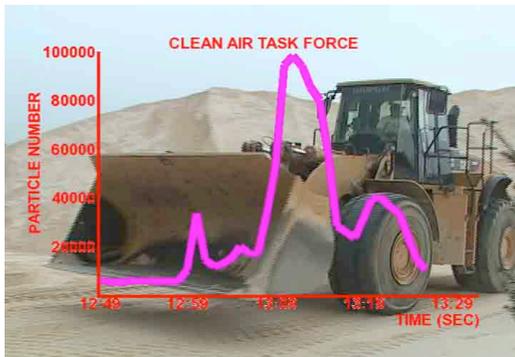
Pollution from diesel equipment has the potential to affect citizens in all parts of the country. Over 88 million Americans live in counties that violate federal health standards for particulate pollution.

**The Solution:** Federally funded transportation projects should minimize any adverse impact on a community's air quality. Linking our nation's diesel construction fleet to the transportation projects they are building will provide an opportunity to incorporate real performance measures on air quality into project delivery.

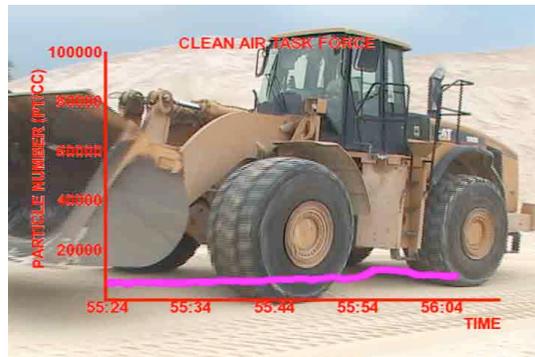
Diesel particulate filters combined with the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD) can eliminate over 90 percent of the dangerous particulate pollution from a diesel engine.

**Call to Action:** We ask Congress to *require and fully fund* the use of clean diesel equipment (i.e., with a diesel particulate filter) on federally funded transportation projects. Funding priority should be given to areas that violate federal air quality standards.

**The Return on Investment:** Estimates show that for every dollar spent on reducing particulate matter pollution from diesel engines, \$12 would be avoided in health damages. Keybridge Associates estimates that every \$1B investment in clean diesel technology would yield 19,000 jobs.



High pollution without filter



Low pollution with filter