

Here's what you can do to help AkPIRG bring cleaner diesel to Alaska NOW!!!

Write your local school district:

Links to local school districts

Anchorage School District

Carol Comeau

Superintendent, Anchorage School District

PO Box 196614

Anchorage, AK 99519

Phone: 742-4312 Fax: 742-4318

E-mail: comeau_carol@asdk12.org

Fairbanks NorthStar Borough School District

Ann E. Shortt, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

520 Fifth Avenue

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

907-452-2000, ext. 401

superintendent@northstar.k12.ak.us

Juneau School District

Gary M. Bader, Superintendent

Juneau School District

10014 Crazy Horse Drive

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone - 463-1700 (x215) Fax - 463-1768

baderg@jsd.k12.ak.us

Write a letter to the editor:

Links to papers – email addresses

Juneau Empire: streed@juneauempire.com

Fairbanks News Miner: letters@newsminer.com

Anchorage Daily News: letters@adn.com

Link to samples:

Sample Letters to the Editor for Dirty Diesel

Dear Editor:

Alaska's Kids Deserve Clean Air

Alaska is not currently receiving the health benefits of the Clean Air Act, exposing Alaskans to a higher risk of cancer, asthma and other breathing ailments. Through an exemption in the Clean Air Act, Alaska is allowed to burn the dirtiest diesel in the nation, with a sulfur content six times greater than the rest of the nation and Canada. In 2007, urban Alaska will finally join the lower 48, switching to ultra-low diesel with a sulfur content 200 times less than what Alaska currently burns. Alaska needs to begin this change now.

The EPA estimates that this switch to ultra-low sulfur fuel will reduce emissions by 90%, prevent 8300 premature deaths and 9500 hospitalizations. It will also have a cost/benefit of \$70 billion/year when fully effective, through decreased health and engine maintenance costs. Alaska should have a share in that savings now, by switching to cleaner diesel fuel before the 2007 mandate.

One critical place to switch to cleaner diesel is in our school buses. Asthma is the number one cause of school absenteeism. We need to make it a priority to give our children a safe learning environment in school and when we are transporting them to and from school. Ask your school district to switch to cleaner diesel now.

Sincerely,

Josephine or Joe Citizen

111 1st Street, #3

Anchorage Ak 99501

(Address and phone for verification only)

Phone – 555-5555

Dear Editor:

I was shocked to find out that Alaska is burning the dirtiest diesel in the country, six times dirtier than the lower 48. Are there similar exemptions that allow us to drink polluted water and eat poisoned food? Why should our air be any dirtier than the rest of the country?

Our kids ride the bus to school every day on buses that are burning six times dirtier diesel than everywhere else. They stand next to these buses while they idle in the winter. They play next to these buses before and after school. They breathe fumes that can cause asthma and even cancer. In order for our children to be safe, shouldn't we burn the cleanest fuel possible? What good is it to educate kids and have them grow up with respiratory problems?

The longer we wait to switch over to cleaner fuel, the longer we put ourselves and our children at risk.

Sincerely,

Name , Title (optional)

Address

Phone

