

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

January 22, 2009

The Honorable Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RE: Request for technical assistance on EPA's ability to disburse Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funds as part of the Economic Recovery Package

Dear Acting Administrator Shapiro:

As you know, Congress is currently considering including increased funding for the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) as part of the Economic Recovery Package. I am writing to request technical assistance from the Agency to provide a schedule detailing the maximum amount that the Agency could disburse over the operative period of the bill, i.e., through September 2010.

Along with nine other Senators, I recently wrote the Chair and the Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee supporting inclusion of DERA funding in the Recovery Package. Since that time, I understand the Agency has analyzed its programmatic capacity and feels it can disburse up to \$1.5 billion in DERA funds over the life of the package. However, my colleagues still have questions regarding the speed in which the Agency can disburse the entire \$1.5 billion.

Accordingly, I would like to know in writing if the Agency could use \$1.5 billion for the DERA program. Specifically, I request you provide your best estimate of the maximum amount of DERA funds that the Agency could disburse over the following time periods: 1) 90 days from enactment; 2) 180 days from enactment; 3) one year from enactment; and 4) by September 30, 2010.

Time is of the essence as the Senate Appropriations Committee has announced its intention to mark-up the package early next week. I look forward to your timely response.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely



Tom Carper  
U.S. Senator

Cc: Elizabeth Craig, Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation  
Margo Oge, Director, Office of Transportation Air Quality  
Jim Blubaugh, Office of Transportation Air Quality