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**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2009 2:32 PM

**Subject:** Objection to 'banning' idling engines by law

Dear Ip 議員 ,

Please help us reflect our thoughts:

100% pro 'avoiding' idling engines voluntarily whenever possible,

200% against 'banning' idling engines by law!!!

Rationale:

#1. Mom of 2 kids with eczema, we sometimes (when waiting in the car for 10-15 min) would have to turn the AC on - otherwise my kids will be sweating like a pig, and their eczema burst!

How does the govt propose me to resolve this simple scenario as a parent?

I don't think Mr. Tsang or the wealthy would understand these situations, or ever be sweating when boarding their vehicles, because they are always being picked up by chauffeurs (who cool the vehicles first).

If the govt bans idling engines by law, then by 'reverse logic', by law I have to keep driving my car if I need to keep my AC on while waiting for something or somebody. So would this cause more pollution (running a car to nowhere)? Would this cause more traffic unnecessarily?

#2. When I am driving alone, I often turn off the AC (even when my car is running) if the weather permits. ( A lot of times I would be surrendered by buses and shuttles and vans, and would be forced to turn on the AC again)

So the question is NOT a matter of idling engines or not, the basic question is: is it practical under HK weather to force all stopped vehicles to turn off the AC?

While it is good practice to turn off idling engines, there are also many daily instances where the HK weather does not allow that. I believe through public awareness, most HK drivers are VERY aware of the benefits of turning off idling engines!!

#3. The question is: If people in a moving vehicle can have AC on, why do people in a parked vehicle not

have the same right? Now tourists buses are applying for exception - why should the general public alone be penalized? Why must people in a parked vehicle turn off the AC under a boiling sun -- when people in a bus or in an office can have AC at even 20 degrees? What is the logic behind people in a parked vehicles must withstand the unbearable heat?

#4. Many things are good - however it does not mean they are to be enforced via law. For example, casual wear (instead of bowties and formal attire) can sure reduce AC --> pollution in summer time - can you enforce that via a law? Can you enforce AC at 26.5 degrees via laws?

#5. WHICH countries have implemented 'banning' of idling engines by LAW? What is the actual air pollution reduction rate? If so, how does HK's weather differ from these countries'?

Even there is law in Canada, there are MANY exceptions e.g. when temperature is > 30 degrees. In HK, even 28 degrees outdoor in a humid summer is quite unbearable. How about when it rains when we can't even open the window?

#6 Wasting resources

to have people patrolling the streets to ticket any idling engines - without solid proof that this will reduce pollution.

#7 Evidence/Support

How about a trial day - that we ban idling engines for 1 day and see the improvements in air quality?

How about a trial day - that we removed duplicated bus lines for a day and see the improvements in air quality?

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE AIR IN HK?

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If our various govt departments and utilities companies would just co-ordinate 'slightly better' when digging up the busy streets, improving street traffic conditions--> this would greatly reduce traffic jams/slowdowns due to un-co-ordinated road constructions. Think about all the pollution because of stop-and-go traffic.

On Jan 3 my car waited 15 min before making a turn into a busy Mongkok street - because too many buses stopped to pick up passengers. How about the govt work on improving these situations? These will improve the air conditions immensely I believe.

This is not an easy task - but I believe with proper efforts (instead of wasting taxpayers money on consultation for idling engines) would truly bring long-term benefits for HK.

Best Regards,

Vinci