



**Submission to Legco
Bills Committee**

31st May 2010

**Clear The Air views on the
Bills Committee on Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill
Meeting of 1st June 2010**

Summary:

Dear Madam Chairman,

Clear the Air supports the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill with no exemptions other than for Vehicles idling for medical, emergency or law enforcement purposes.

The current bill contains so many exemptions that it has no power and does not help our current roadside air pollution problems which has gotten worse over the last 2 years, and makes a nasty experience for Hong Kong people and visitors to this city.

Accepting exemptions, would make a joke of this legislation, and make it totally impossible to implement by the law enforcement authorities.

We know there are solutions for all other vehicles that are currently being exempted, for example there are technologies that can run air conditioning in a car / bus without the engine idling, as well as to keep an air-conditioned car without running the engine, even considering that it never takes more than 2mn to cooldown a car once the aircon is switched on.

We believe it is our government's responsibility to support & help those that need subsidies to acquire these technologies in order to protect public health on the roadside.

This Bill is the first step in protecting the health of Hong Kong drivers, pedestrians and our next generation.

I once was a taxi driver myself for a short time in Australia and I perfectly understand the other point of views in this room, however the professional drivers need also to understand that they are also intoxicating themselves when they keep their engine running while stationary since the gas exhausts come back into the cabin via the aircon system.

The densely built environment of Hong Kong makes air pollution a serious issue and the professional drivers in this room need to understand that their lives are as much at risks as the passers by on the street. Cool air never meant clean air, it is loaded with the same carbon monoxide from the tail pipe.

This bill defends no sectorial nor any special interests.

It is the "Right for Clean Air" for everyone that the group I am representing is defending and everyone, I repeat, everyone would agree that it is a legitimate concern, for the health of everybody including the professional drivers.

Clear The Air - 8/F Eastwood Centre - 5, A Kung Ngam Village Road - Shaukeiwan, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2579 9398 Fax: (852) 2565 9537 email: askus@cleartheair.org.hk