

香港工商環保聯會的信頭
Letterhead of Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment

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11 June 1999

Ms Odelia Leung
LegCo Panel on Environment Affairs
Legislative Council
The People's Republic of China
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Legislative Council Building
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(Fax : 2524 3802)

Dear Ms Leung.

The Coalition has previously indicated it intends to make a presentation at your meeting on the 15 June 1999.

The business community in Hong Kong is becoming progressively alarmed by the deteriorating environment which not only affects the health of our employees and their families, but makes Hong Kong an increasingly unattractive place to invest and visit. The Coalition has recently forcefully expressed its concerns at a press briefing held on the 8 June.

Of prime concern is Hong Kong's air quality. The recent booklet published by the Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau entitled "Clean Air for Hong Kong" estimates that the costs of acute respiratory and cardiovascular disease linked to air pollution already amount to \$3.8 billion per year in medical expenses and lost productivity. Added to this is the extremely poor visibility we suffer in the winter months.

The booklet goes on to describe the steps to be taken to improve this situation, steps which are supported fully by the Coalition.

The Coalition includes over 20 foreign and local business associations and I am aware that individual Coalition members may have already written to you supporting an increase in the fixed penalty for smoky vehicles to \$5,000.

The business community fully supports this proposal. For too long we have all suffered the effects of street level exhaust fumes made even worse by those vehicles with smoking exhausts.

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I have no doubt the transport sector will argue this is restricted to a minority of their members – the same argument put forward over the widespread use of illegal diesel in Hong Kong. However, the proven fact is that in Hong Kong a major source of particulate matter is vehicle emissions. There is no excuse for this situation to be made even worse by those vehicles which further increase pollution with their smoky exhausts.

Yours sincerely,

Barrie Cook
Convenor