

**Office of Dr. Law Chi Kwong, Legislative Councillor**  
**Rm 601, Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central**  
**Tel: 25099211 Fax: 25099688 Email: cklawoff@netvigator.com**

12<sup>th</sup> Nov.99

Mr. Kim Salkeld  
Deputy Secretary for Planning,  
Environment and Lands (Environment)  
9/F, Murray Building, Garden Road, HK

Dear Mr. Salkeld,

**Re: Action to improve air quality**

Regarding the air pollution problem caused by vehicle emissions, the government set out a series of measures to mitigate pollution. The Democratic Party is concerned about the following aspects and it will be very kind of you to give us the information in detail.

**Maintenance**

1. What measures will the government adopt to make the repair manuals available to the public? What is the time for implementing it?
2. Who are the members in the working group on improving the maintenance service standard? What are the short term and long term objectives of the working group? How often does the group hold the meeting? Any objectives of the working group would like to achieve before asking the LegCo to increase fine for smoke belchers? Is the government planing to introduce a licensing system to the garage business to keep the maintenance services up to standard? Will the working group put it into its agenda?
3. How can the working group achieve their objectives? Can they make vehicle dealer release the technical specifications on all components? Can repair workshops afford to buy the necessary diagnostic equipment?
4. How and when will the government assist the garages to upgrade their maintenance services standard? How can the government ensure that the garages catch up with the new technology Euro III diesel vehicles in 2001? Will VTC provide the necessary training on a continous basis?

### **Emission Control**

1. Making the dynamometer easily accessible will encourage diesel vehicle owners to check their vehicle condition and also provide incentives to those garages to upgrade their service standard. Will the government consider introducing two additional dynamometers for commercial vehicles to have better testing? What is the charge of the testing and who should be responsible for the charge? How can the Government assist the repair trade to properly identify problem components?
2. Does EPD lower the standard of the advanced smoke test (by means of a dynamometer) in order to increase the passing rate? If yes, could you please let us know what the problem is and when will the EPD review the revised standard? What has the EPD done over the last two years on the dynamometer test research?

### **Particulate Trap**

*It is widely-known that having regular cleaning of the particulate trap is the most crucial factor in reducing smoke and particulates. Will the government inform us:*

1. What is the cost of a particulate trap?
2. What is the the current cost of cleaning a trap filter?
3. Where and how the trap filter can be cleaned?
4. Have the government considered the following suggestion?
  - *to provide two trap filters to the drivers for substitution, and*
  - *to allocate some space in gas stations for the collection of old filters and the storage of clean filters for the drivers to exchange, and*
  - *to contract out the cleaning work of the filters*
5. How can the Government ensure all drivers will clean their trap properly?
6. What is the cost and benefit (cost to reduce PM reduction per tonne) each year? How much PM (tonnes) could be trapped each year?
7. How often should the trap be cleaned?
8. Is it necessary to introduce new equipment to conduct the smoke testing of the vehicles with traps?

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**Diesel Catalytic Converter**

1. What is the cost of a Diesel Catalytic Converter?
2. What is the percentage of respirable suspended particulates could be reduced by a Diesel Catalytic Converter?
3. Will condition of vehicles and quality of fuel play a big role of the effectiveness of Diesel CAT?

Thank you for your attention and we are looking forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Yuen at 250913121.

Yours sincerely,

Law Chi Kwong  
Spokesperson for Environmental Protection Policy  
The Democratic Party

Cc: LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel Members