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27 December 2007

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Room 511, West Wing Central Government Offices 11 Ice House Street Central Hong Kong

(Fax: 2530 9167)

Dear Hon Ms LAU,

(English Translation)

Ban on Idling Vehicles in Singapore

Thank you for your letter to Secretary for the Environment dated 4 Dec 2007 asking for information about the control of idling vehicles in Singapore. The following provides responses to your specific questions.

According to the information obtained from the Pollution Control Department of Singapore, the legislation controlling idling vehicles entered into force in 1999. The officers of the Pollution Control Department enforce the regulation during their regular patrol and in response to complaints. If non-compliance is found, the enforcement officer will issue a warning letter to the driver on site and advise him to switch off his idling engine. No one has been prosecuted for violating the regulation up to early December 2007.

There was no promotional or educational programme launched before the implementation of the ban. The Singapore Government has been taking an educational approach, coupled with the issue of advisories and warning letters, to encourage drivers to switch off the engines of their vehicles while waiting. The Singapore Government also works with large fleet owners, such as tourist bus associations and taxi operators, to bring across the message of switching off engines to their drivers.

Yours sincerely,

Translated version not signed
(Carlson Chan)
for Director of Environmental Protection

cc:

Ms Becky YU (LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs) Fax 2869 6794