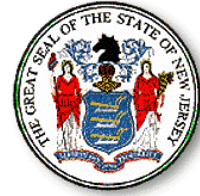


News from Senator Bob Smith



Representing Piscataway, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Highland Park, Franklin Township and Milltown

For immediate release, October 6, 2004

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SENATOR SMITH URGES SCHOOLS AND BUS DRIVERS TO LIMIT IDLING

PISCATAWAY – Senator Bob Smith, D-17, today urged school officials and school bus drivers to commit to the Department of Environmental Protection’s School Bus Idling Initiative.

Children’s health is adversely affected by the harmful diesel fumes emitted by school buses, Smith said.

“Over and over again, scientific studies have found links between exposure to harmful diesel emissions and increased incidents of asthma, higher rates of allergies, other cardiovascular problems, and even cancer, Smith said. “The number of premature deaths that can be attributed to diesel emissions exposure could exceed the annual number of homicides or motor vehicle accident fatalities in the State.”

If school bus drivers turn off their engines when busses are waiting for students to board, they can contribute to significantly reducing the amount of harmful diesel emissions in the air that is inhaled by our school children, Smith said.

Smith also said a bill he is sponsoring in the New Jersey Senate, S-1759, will also work to significantly reduce the amount of diesel emissions released into New Jersey’s air. S-1759 will reduce fine particle emissions from certain vehicles and equipment powered by diesel engines, thereby reducing the exposure of the public to these emissions, relieving truck traffic in residential neighborhoods and minimizing the exposure of children to diesel emissions.

“We urge not only school bus drivers and school officials here in Piscataway, but every school bus driver and every school official across the state to help us reduce air pollution and protect the health of our children by signing on to this pledge to limit school bus idling,” Smith said.

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