



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 12 2003

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Fred S. Vallo, Sr.
Governor of Pueblo of Acoma
Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) Co-Chair
Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Governor Vallo:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 2003, co-signed by Governor Leavitt of Utah, in which you expressed the support of the Western Regional Air Partnership for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) adoption of rigorous new standards for non-road diesel equipment. Although nonroad diesel equipment is currently regulated under existing standards, emissions from these sources currently are a significant part of the emissions inventory and will increase in coming years if action is not taken now. We believe that additional emission reductions are necessary to protect public health and meet our air quality goals.

My staff is currently developing a proposal for a program that would control emissions from these engines to levels comparable to those achieved by new automobiles today. Our plan is to follow the systems approach applied in EPA's new regulations for highway diesel and gasoline vehicles, in which we established coordinated standards for engines and fuel. The emission reductions accomplished through this approach far exceed those achieved by separate engine and fuel programs, and in a very cost-effective manner.

As you mentioned in your letter, it is critical that we also address emissions from existing non-road and on-road equipment. EPA will continue to work with state, local, and tribal governments to implement diesel retrofit programs. This combined approach will provide major emission reductions from the non-road sector, which will go a long ways towards enabling communities across the nation to meet their clean air goals.

Again, thank you for your letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Holmstead (for)".

Jeffrey R. Holmstead
Assistant Administrator