

**Ministry
of the
Environment**

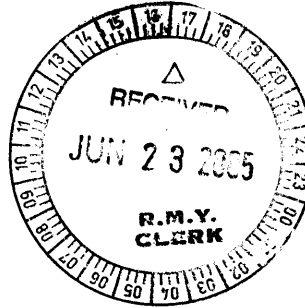
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ENV1283MC-2005-2304

JUN 17 2005

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. -

p06

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2005 with respect to the use of engine brakes on heavy-duty vehicles

You indicated in your letter that the Council of the Regional Municipality of York has adopted a clause to petition the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to enforce exhaust system compliance on all heavy-duty trucks. Further, you indicated that engine brakes, while legal, may be the source of excessive noise when the exhaust system is tampered with or not properly maintained. The petition indicates that inspection of the exhaust system may be a way to avoid the noise problem.

I appreciate and share your concerns. The MOE sets and enforces heavy-duty emissions standards through the *Drive Clean* program. Under this program, annual emissions tests for registration renewal are required for heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses registered anywhere in Ontario. A new, voluntary test standard of 20 percent opacity has been established to encourage good vehicle maintenance by giving diesel heavy-duty vehicle operators the opportunity to have their vehicles tested every two years instead of annually.

Mandatory testing and repair is complemented by on-road inspection and enforcement by the Smog Patrol, which conducts province-wide roadside inspections of both heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles to ensure compliance with Ontario's motor vehicle emissions standards. These inspections focus on measuring opacity and ensuring that emissions-control equipment used to reduce smog-causing emissions is present and functioning properly.

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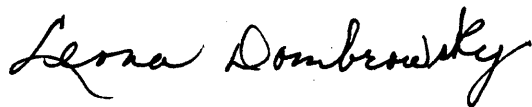
Mr. Denis Kelly
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The *Drive Clean* program has proven successful in reducing the emissions of particulate matter and other pollutants from heavy-duty diesel vehicles. A recent analysis of the heavy-duty vehicle program by an independent consultant concludes that, from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2002, the heavy-duty diesel vehicle component of the *Drive Clean* program reduced particulate matter by nearly 1,100 tonnes. This is nearly double the three-year goal of 660 tonnes set when *Drive Clean* began emissions testing of heavy-duty diesel vehicles in 1999. The reduction is the equivalent of removing emissions from about 47,000 heavy-duty diesel vehicles. Although neither initiative targets noise pollution, both programs may deter vehicle owners from tampering with their vehicle exhaust systems. This may indirectly contribute to the reduction of noise levels from the use of engine brakes in York Region.

I support your initiative to place signs throughout the affected area. We will continue to do our part through testing and enforcement of emissions standards. For more information on the *Drive Clean* and Smog Patrol programs, please visit our web site at www.driveclean.com.

Thank you, again, for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leona Dombrowsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leona" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dombrowsky".

Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of the Environment