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Senator Susan C. Fargo, Senate Chair  
Representative Peter J. Koutoujian, House Chair  
Senator Cynthia Stone Creem, Senate Vice Chair  
Representative Alice K. Wolf, House Vice Chair  
Joint Committee on Public Health  
Room 130  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 2227, *An Act Relative To Reporting On Health Effects Of Particulate Matter***

Dear Chairwoman Fargo and Chairman Koutoujian,

This letter **SUPPORTS HB 2227, *An Act Relative to Reporting on Health Effects of Particulate Matter***, Representative Denise Provost, chief bill sponsor.

The negative health effects of fine and ultra fine particulate matter pollution are staggering and include increases of incidents of cancer, asthma, hearth disease, and diabetes; cardiovascular morbidity and mortality; and decreased lung development in children. Major highways and diesel train stations are the chief sources of concern requiring more public health intercession, due to the absence of regulatory systems in place for these matters. This problem deserves the very modest solution that HB 2227 proposes at this time: a \$250,000 research study by the Center for Environmental Health of the Department of Public Health to map hotspots of particulate pollution.

Many people assume that the myriad state, federal and local environmental laws must be enough by now to protect public health from known airborne health hazards. Not so. Residences and recreational open space continue to be located every day in public health hazard "hot spots" directly adjacent to major highways and diesel train stations. State and federal regulation control emissions sources, not location of people near these sources, which is left to local zoning. Yet local zoning in Massachusetts has not kept up with science. All it takes is about 500 yds of "buffer" for the most dangerous particulate matter to generally dissipate. California has issued directives to its localities warning against the public health dangers of siting residences and recreational open space within 500 yds of major highways or diesel train stations. Why not Massachusetts?

Attached are international studies which describe the negative health effects of particulate matter in areas with high traffic levels and areas where rail lines are located which are used regularly by diesel locomotives. Also attached are copies of expert testimony submitted in executive branch proceedings regarding a specific proposed residential development site, Lovejoy Wharf in Boston,

which demonstrates the shocking absence in Massachusetts of adequate systems for protecting the future public from dangerous siting decisions. Neither the state nor the local review processes were previously briefed or “up to speed” on the need to require the developer to mitigate the future health risks using, for example, engineered doors and windows to push air out, not in, when opened.

Please **support for HB 2227 and support** this very reasonable, modest step to ameliorating public health impacts of air pollution in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamy B. Madeja". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jamy B. Madeja, Esq.  
Environmental Attorney

Cc: Representative Denise Provost, Bill Sponsor