



Blue Island
Burnham
Calumet City
Calumet Park
Chicago Heights
Country Club Hills
Crete
Dixmoor
Dolton
East Hazel Crest
Flossmoor
Ford Heights
Glenwood
Harvey
Hazel Crest
Homewood
Lansing
Lynwood
Markham
Matteson
Midlothian
Mokena
Monee
New Lenox
Oak Forest
Olympia Fields
Orland Hills
Orland Park
Palos Heights
Park Forest
Phoenix
Posen
Richton Park
Riverdale
Robbins
Sauk Village
South Chicago Heights
South Holland
Steger
Thornton
Tinley Park
University Park

February 7, 2012

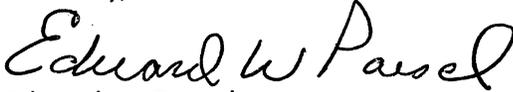
Ms. Holly Ostdick
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Ostdick:

On behalf of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, please accept this letter as an indication of our strong support for the Union Pacific Railroad and its CMAQ proposal to acquire genset switchers for their Dolton yard. As the Union Pacific continues to upgrade and enhance their Dolton Yard, the use of genset switches for the yard would be of great environmental benefit to the Village of Dolton and other surrounding communities, including Riverdale and South Holland.

Thank you for consideration of this request and please forward this letter to the CMAQ Committee members. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Edward W. Paesel
Executive Director

EWP/rak

cc: Bud Fleming
Wes Lujan, Union Pacific



February 7, 2011

Dear Ms. Ostick,

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago has taken an active interest in CMAQ funding over the years. The program helps clean the air in northeastern Illinois, which in turn helps minimize the incidence and severity of lung disease in the region.

As we have noted in the past, CMAQ projects that retrofit or replace diesel engines have some of the highest cost efficiencies. Several CMAQ projects have been approved in recent years that focus on reducing emissions from railroad switcher locomotives, and all have been well below \$200/Kg VOCs reduced. Such projects provide local benefits in the region as switcher engines remain and operate almost exclusively within the region.

In this vein we want to express support for a proposed project scope change that would significantly increase the number of locomotive switcher engine replacements at a yard in Dolton using an existing CMAQ project in western Cook County – the Union Pacific Proviso Railyard Switcher Engine Retrofit (TIP ID 04-09-0002).

While the project scope increase of \$14.56m (federal) is large and program funds for the 2012-16 multi-year CMAQ plan are fully allocated, it is also our understanding that several older CMAQ projects may not be moving forward which could lead to funds being recinded if not spent. Losing these resources from the region would be unfortunate and so we are very supportive of CMAP efforts to find alternate ways to invest these federal funds in a way that will provide maximum local health benefits in projects that are cost effective, can be quickly funded and implemented, and could maximize the leverage of federal dollars. This project fits that bill as IDOT has completed a legal framework to govern the original project, the replacements could be purchased fairly quickly and this project would continue to have a higher than average 35 percent match requirement.

Thank you for considering our thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Urbaszewski
Director of Environmental Health Programs

Barry Levenstam, Esq.
Board Chair

Bradley D. Murlick
Vice Chair

Steven L. Victor
Treasurer

David B. Yelin, Esq.
Secretary

Joan D. Boomsma, MD, MBA
Past Board Chair

Joel J. Africk
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Formerly known as:
American Lung Association of
Metropolitan Chicago*
(1993-2007)

Chicago Lung Association
(1972 - 1993)

Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago
and Cook County
(1937 - 1972)

Chicago Tuberculosis Institute
(1906 - 1937)

*Respiratory Health Association
of Metropolitan Chicago is not
affiliated with American Lung
Association.

February 7, 2012

Ms. Holly Ostdick
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Manager, CMAQ Program
233 S. Wacker Blvd., Suite 800
Chicago, IL, 60606

Re: Union Pacific Proviso Railyard Switcher Engine Retrofit (TIP ID 04-09-0002)

Dear Ms. Ostdick,

Given the serious public health problems caused by diesel pollution, Citizen Action/Illinois writes to express support for the proposed project scope change to increase the number of locomotive switcher engine replacements at the Union Pacific Proviso Railyard (TIP ID 04-09-0002).

CMAQ projects that retrofit or replace diesel engines are exceptionally cost effective. And switch engine retrofits, in particular, provide additional air quality benefits to the region because the engines remain and operate almost exclusively within their home railyards.

The cleanup of Dolton Yard's switcher engines will lead to significant reductions in diesel soot pollution throughout the South Suburbs. To this end, we strongly urge the CMAQ Project Selection Committee to fully fund the proposed project scope change.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Q. Doster
Manager, Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution
Citizen Action/Illinois