



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • [www.mde.maryland.gov](http://www.mde.maryland.gov)

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

February 25, 2014

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Members of the Environmental Matters Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Opposition - *House Bill 1087, Motor Vehicles – Maximum Period of Idling - Repeal***

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment has reviewed HB1087 and would like to express its opposition to this legislation. HB1087 repeals the prohibition on the operation of a vehicle's engine for more than five consecutive minutes while the vehicle is not in motion. Current law allows for the following idling exceptions: if the vehicle is motionless because of traffic conditions; when necessary to operate heating and cooling or auxiliary equipment; or to bring the vehicle up to the manufactures recommended operating temperature.

Repeal of this the existing prohibition would hinder the Department's efforts to reduce airborne pollutants (VOCs, NOx, PM, and GHG). The State has invested significantly in the Maryland Idle Reduction Technology Grant program which provides grants to truck owners for devices to reduce idling. This grant program is entering its third year and has been very successful. Also, current law provides the basis for the manufacture of anti-idling technologies such as truck stop electrification and auxiliary power units, as well as the electrification of the trucks themselves. Many states with similar anti-idling laws, recognizing the energy and environmental savings associated with them, are making their laws more stringent, not eliminating them.

Unnecessary idling can be a nuisance and in some cases a health concern when the idling causes exhaust emissions to enter residences or businesses. In situations such as these, it is beneficial to be able to have the ability to rely on the statutory provisions in current law to remedy the matter. Eliminating them would remove a useful legal tool in this regard.

Thank you for your consideration of this information as you review HB 1087. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or by email at [jeffery.fretwell@maryland.gov](mailto:jeffery.fretwell@maryland.gov) if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Fretwell

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration

