

INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
200 W. Washington St.,
Indianapolis, IN 46204

November 28, 2017

The Honorable Michael Pence
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

We have argued for many years that the current vehicle emissions testing program is responsible for an unfair expense to Lake and Porter County motorists, often resulting in bills of \$200 or more to take care of an engine problem that is not ultimately responsible for the air pollution in our region.

To this end, legislation filed in the 2017 session of the Indiana General Assembly (House Bill 1317) called for a legislative interim study of the motor vehicle inspection requirements in Lake and Porter counties, while calling for an investigation of other measures that might be taken to address the air pollution problem more fairly and effectively. Ultimately, the provisions of that bill were included in House Enrolled Act 1491.

Most recently, this topic was assigned by the Indiana Legislative Council to the Interim Study Committee on Roads & Transportation, which included this topic in its agenda for a meeting held on Sept. 13, 2017.

During this hearing, a presentation by officials of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management highlighted the absurdity of the present “nonattainment” status that forces the residents of Lake and Porter Counties to submit to vehicle emissions testing. Information provided by IDEM has repeatedly demonstrated that Lake and Porter County emissions meet the federal standards for ozone. But for the inclusion of these two counties inside the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s arbitrary borders that lump them into the same zone as Chicago and southeastern Wisconsin, no Hoosiers would have to submit to the expense and inconvenience of vehicle inspections.

The entire legislative delegation of Northwestern Indiana—including both Republicans and Democrats—is unified in its opposition to the EPA’s abhorrent policies that cost our constituents hard-earned money in testing and repair fees that do nothing to improve the air quality in our region. We could not agree more with a recent newspaper editorial that referred to these fees as “extortion.”

Please help us end this cycle of abusive and expensive extortion.

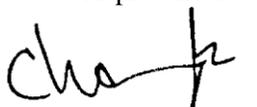
Most respectfully,


Mike Aylesworth
State Representative

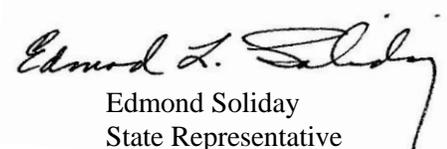

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State Senator


Mara Candelaria
Reardon
State Representative


Vernon Smith
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Rick Niemeyer
State Senator


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State Representative