



November 20, 2000

Dear LegCo Member,

Proposal to Delay the Fixed Penalty Fine Increase for Smoky Vehicles

On behalf of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, I would like to take this opportunity to weigh in on LegCo's proposal to delay the fixed penalty fine increase for smoky vehicles.

AmCham has been a strong advocate for increasing the fixed penalty fine for smoky vehicles to HK\$5,000, as well as various initiatives to address Hong Kong's deteriorating air quality and other environmental concerns. For example: reductions in levels of respirable small particles (RSPs) by the use of cleaner fuel alternatives to diesel, better coordination among various government departments to enforce emission standards, multi-stakeholder participation to devise appropriate initiatives, cooperation with appropriate government authorities in the PRC, and implementation of the polluter pays principle for both individuals and companies. AmCham's position, as stated in our position paper on air quality in Hong Kong, is that Hong Kong's deteriorating environment, with worsening air pollution, will erode Hong Kong's edge over competing Asian cities.

It is our belief that the fixed penalty fine for smoky vehicles is a small but significant step toward making a visible improvement to our environment. But, in order to be successful, it is important that the fine must be of high enough value to encourage compliance with the regulations. It is also critically important for us not to lose momentum on the various environmental initiatives put in place since the Chief Executive's 1999 Policy Address. We therefore urge you to keep the timeline for raising the smoky vehicle fine on schedule to commence on December 1. Failure to do so is harmful to public health, and jeopardizes the SAR's plans to achieving world-class city status.

Yours sincerely

Frank Martin
President

Encl – AmCham Position Paper – *Air Quality in Hong Kong*