SAMPLE NO-IDLING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted; and

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, and fine particulates; and

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles contribute a multitude of potentially harmful pollutants that can trigger an asthma attack and other ailments[1] and

WHEREAS, diesel vehicles emit numerous carcinogenic chemicals, including benzene and formaldehyde, and; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that all vehicle emissions account for as many as half of all cancers attributed to outdoor air pollution; and

WHEREAS, we can avoid producing unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and exposure to air toxics by reducing or eliminating wasteful vehicle idling; and

WHEREAS, an average school bus uses ½ gallon of diesel fuel for each hour of idling and reducing idling by 30 minutes per day would save 45 gallons and $135.00 per bus per year (assuming a diesel fuel cost of $3.000/gal)[2]; and

WHEREAS, a car idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles and uses more than 27 gallons of fuel a year; and

WHEREAS, for every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2), the largest contributor to greenhouse climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector[3]; and

WHEREAS, **idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning a warm engine off and on again[4]**; and idling is not generally beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts[5]; and

WHEREAS, current EPA research shows that when idling more than 3 minutes, there are 66% higher particulate matter levels inside buses than in shutting and re-starting buses[6].

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs on school drop off and pick up locations and parking lots where children are more highly exposed to air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern, especially among Texas' school age children where up to **XX**% are asthmatic—the leading cause of school absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children's exposure to diesel exhaust particles should be decreased and that idling of diesel vehicles in places where children live and congregate should be minimized to protect their health; and

WHEREAS, adopting a no-idling code would significantly improve public health, air quality, reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Texas school/school district_____

Supports the adoption of "Idle Free Zones" on school grounds, including a pledge by school buses, school
employees, and parents to:
• Turn off school bus engines while waiting to load and to unload students.
• Turn off vehicles when parents are parked and waiting to pick up and drop off children.
• Installing "Idle Free Zone" signs at school drop-off and pick-up locations.
• Use newest buses for the longest routes.
• Maintain buses properly to eliminate any visible exhaust.
• Complete school-bus driver training on eliminating idling.
• conducts and/or support broad education of school employees, parents, students and the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling.

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[1] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air & Radiation, Basic Information, 'Six Common Air Pollutants," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Accessed May 26, 2006, http://www.epa.gov/oar/urbanair/6poll.html

[2] USEPA Fuel Calculator, Accessed August 24, 2006 http://www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/idle_fuel_calc.htm

[3] EHHI Releases Original Research Report, The Harmful Effects of Vehicle Exhaust: A Case for Policy Change.

[4] Source: Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resources Canada http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/index.cfm?attr=16

[5] Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, 'Idling,' Accessed May 24, 2006 http://www.in.gov/idem/programs/air/dieselwise/idling.html

[6] EPA Region 2 Study -- GET CITE