



September 21, 2015

City of Houston City Hall
901 Bagby
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Mayor Parker and City Council Members,

For decades, Houston has enjoyed a reputation as one of the country's most desirable places to live. As our city continues to grow, it is critical that city officials take every opportunity to maintain public health and quality of life.

If we are going to enjoy the benefits of a thriving economy, industry, and port, we must also tackle the serious air quality issues that they present. The trucks, buses, and heavy-duty vehicles that enable our city to flourish also produce a complex mixture of toxic air pollutants. By limiting idling from these vehicles, we can reduce these pollutants and increase efficiency.

On average, a truck produces 21 tons of carbon dioxide and over a quarter of a ton of nitrogen oxides each year while idling. In addition to air pollution, idling wastes money and fuel. One heavy-duty truck could save \$4,750 (1,830 gallons of diesel fuel) annually just by eliminating unnecessary idling.

There are 32 cities and 9 counties in Texas that have already limited idling of heavy-duty vehicles. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality also has a state regulation affirming the right of local governments to enact such ordinances.

In Houston, an ordinance limiting idling of heavy-duty vehicles will be an important step to reduce air pollution and protect public health. Houston needs a balanced idling ordinance that favors education and outreach over fines or punishment. Such an ordinance will save money and have a substantial impact on Houston's air quality.

For these reasons, we support an idling ordinance in Houston and we encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Shelley", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Adrian Shelley
Executive Director
Air Alliance Houston

cc: CM Stardig, CM Davis, CM Cohen, CM Boykins, CM Martin, CM Nguyen, CM Pennington,
CM Gonzalez, CM Gallegos, CM Laster, CM Green, CM Costello, CM Robinson, CM Kubosh,
CM Bradford, CM Christie

The following organizations and the millions of people that they represent endorse this letter and strongly support the City of Houston in creating an Idling Ordinance:

