



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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January 28, 2008

Richard Snyder

Dear Mr. Snyder:

I am writing in response to the letter you sent Governor Strickland regarding the E-Check program. The Governor forwarded your letter to me for response. I appreciate the opportunity to address the concerns of motorists pertaining to the E-Check program.

A vehicle emissions testing program is mandated by the federal Clean Air Act and is a critical component of Ohio's efforts to comply with the federal ozone standard. The state is required to operate a vehicle emissions testing program in Northeast Ohio because we continue to have high ozone levels in the area.

While I understand that many people view E-Check as ineffective, it is helping clean the air in Northeast Ohio. There are more than two million vehicles registered in the Cleveland/Akron area. Vehicles contribute up to 45 percent of the pollutants that contribute to ozone levels in northeast Ohio. The E-Check program reduces the pollutants that contribute to ozone by almost 6,280 tons per year.

The amendment in House Bill 24, passed in December by the Ohio General Assembly, allowed the Governor to extend the contract with Envirotec Systems until June 30, 2008. During the next six months, Ohio EPA will go through a competitive selection process for a new contract to operate the program. That contract would end on June 30, 2009. At that time, the state will re-evaluate the need for the program to continue.

At the same time, regulations affecting emissions from industry and business also continue to get more stringent. We will continue to address all sources of air pollution as we strive for clean, healthy air for Ohioans.

Thank you for your concern about our air quality. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ohio EPA's Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160.

Sincerely,

Chris Korleski
Director

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director