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## United States Senate

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February 18, 2020

Ms. Faye Swift  
DERA Grants and Policy Team Leader  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Transportation & Air Quality  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW.  
Room 6406A  
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Ms. Swift:

It has recently come to my attention that the Port of New Orleans is applying for funding from the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant program. They are requesting \$1,210,000 to replace privately-owned diesel trucks with lower emission trucks. The port will provide a match of \$83,692 and the truck owners will be expected to provide \$1,190,000.

The Port of New Orleans plans to use the funds to conduct an open application process in which 42 truck owners that service the port will be selected to receive a partial grant towards the purchase of a low-emissions truck. As a previous awardee, the port has already replaced 52 vehicles. The port expects the project will further reduce emissions in the port and surrounding area.

I appreciate the EPA's consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator

BC/ME