FUEL EFFICIENCY THROUGH SMARTWAY[SM]

ISSUE:

The President's National Energy Policy directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in May 2001 to develop ways to reduce demand for petroleum transportation fuels by working with the trucking industry to establish a program to reduce emissions and fuel consumption from long-haul trucks. In February 2004, the freight industry and EPA jointly unveiled the SmartWay[SM] Transport Partnership, a collaborative voluntary program designed to increase the energy efficiency and energy security of our country while significantly reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases. In 2007, ATA was honored for these efforts with an Environmental Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency SmartWay[SM] Transport Partnership

ATA strongly supports the goal of reducing carbon emissions, achieving cleaner air by reducing idling and promoting energy conservation technologies for heavy-duty on-road diesel vehicles. Unnecessary long-duration idling of truck main engines alone consumed approximately 1.1 billion gallons of this total. Based on comprehensive testing of idling heavy-duty diesel trucks, the average truck consumes roughly 1 gallon of fuel per hour. Long-haul truck tractors serve both as the drivers' work place and residence. Therefore, trucks idle for comfort, safety and necessity.

SmartWay[SM] is an innovative partnership designed to improve the environment while boosting the bottom lines of trucking companies. SmartWay[SM] helps identify and popularize practical, money-saving techniques to increase fuel efficiency, reduce idling and slash emissions.

ATA Position:

ATA recommends that shippers and carriers join the U.S. EPA SmartWay[SM] Transport Partnership Program in order to achieve greater national gains in fuel efficiency and carbon reduction. ATA encourages continued congressional funding for the Program.