

United States Senate

October 18, 2021

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Michael S. Regan
USEPA William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan,

I write to express concern regarding the unavailability of replacement diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) sensors for American truckers. As you know, the global microchip shortage is causing extreme hardship for trucking companies. I urge the Environmental Protection Agency to redouble its efforts to facilitate and approve a software solution to quell this dire situation. Time is of the essence.

I understand that DEF sensor manufacturers are diligently working on software solutions, which require EPA's approval. It's my understanding that EPA has made this a top priority and will expedite the approval process for the software workarounds. If approved, this would lift a tremendous burden on truckers and motor carriers throughout the country.

Aside from DEF sensors requiring microchips amid the shortage, these sensors "derate" trucks, forcing them to slow to 5 mph. Whether derated by malfunction or actual high DEF levels, no affected truck can be used to haul freight. In addition, the derating of an over-the-road commercial vehicle while under load creates an extremely unsafe situation for the driver, the driving public that shares the road with trucks, the shipper and/or receiver, and the insurance provider responsible for the load.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter. It is paramount that the Environmental Protection Agency resolves this ongoing problem in due time. Please provide a briefing on this request within 30-days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator