

**NEW YORK LAWYERS FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST
NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE
MEMO OF SUPPORT**

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**Intro. 1160-A – Reducing Pollution from
Waste Trucks**

OVERVIEW:

Intro. 1160-A. will significantly reduce air pollution in New York City by phasing out the use of older, highly polluting trucks for the hauling of private waste and construction and demolition (C&D) debris. Specifically, Intro. 1160-A will require that by 2020 all waste haulers licensed by the City's Business Integrity Commission (BIC) use only trucks that meet the U.S. EPA's 2007 standards for diesel trucks or are fitted with the best available retrofit technology. Businesses may seek to have their compliance date extended as late as 2025 where they can demonstrate that earlier compliance would impose undue financial hardship.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT:

New York City's commercial sector generates millions of tons of waste and C&D debris each year. Approximately 8,000 heavy-duty diesel trucks collect this waste and haul it to waste transfer stations. This process has significant, negative impacts for New York City as a whole and most severely affects residents that live along truck routes and live in communities that host waste transfer stations. In fact, waste collection is so truck-intensive that it accounts for 20% of all the particulate matter (PM) emitted from heavy-duty trucks in New York City.

Over a decade ago, as pollution control technologies became more effective and affordable, U.S. EPA adopted a rule that set significantly cleaner emission standards for heavy-duty diesel trucks. Effective with model year 2007 trucks, these standards require, among other things, that PM emissions from 2007 and subsequent trucks are 85-95% lower than those from pre-2007 trucks. By accelerating the rate at which waste and debris haulers convert to 2007-compliant trucks, Intro. 1160-A would eliminate nearly 600 tons of PM emissions in New York City by 2030. This would have tremendous public health benefits as a rapidly growing body of research has linked PM exposure with negative health effect such as decreased lung function, asthma, chronic bronchitis, heart disease, and premature death.

While this will create some additional costs for haulers, which will lead to marginal increases in what businesses pay for trash removal, we strongly believe that the bill's public health benefits greatly outweigh this cost. Moreover, the legislation would allow businesses to delay their compliance where they can demonstrate that compliance would create an undue financial hardship.

For these reasons, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance strongly support Intro. 1160-A.