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**Statement from Conrad Schneider, Advocacy Director, Clean Air Task Force, summarizing his written testimony on reauthorization of the Transportation Bill before the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 30, 2011**

In prepared remarks today, Conrad Schneider, Advocacy Director of Clean Air Task Force, a Boston-based NGO, called the 2011 Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill a unique opportunity to clean up diesel pollution and create jobs by incorporating Clean Construction principles into the legislation. The principles, jointly developed by CATF and Associated General Contractors (AGC), one of the nation's largest construction trade organizations, describe a process for upgrading and retrofitting construction vehicles used in federally-funded transportation projects that will dramatically reduce the diesel particulate matter that is one of this country's primary sources of pulmonary and cardiovascular death and disease. Schneider said the technology is feasible to install on older pieces of diesel equipment and installation is accessible throughout the country.

Schneider outlined several areas across the country where Clean Construction has already been successfully implemented, including the reconstruction of Ground Zero in lower Manhattan, the "Big Dig" in Boston and in states including Rhode Island and next, New Jersey, at minimal extra cost to the project. Schneider called for a retrofitting cost to be capped of 1 percent on the total cost of any federal transportation project, and that this limit is consistent with 10 transportation projects studied by CATF.

"Clean Construction provides a unique opportunity to integrate and streamline clean air measures into federally-funded construction projects," Schneider said, "while providing support for contractors to clean up dirty equipment and protect public health. We call on this Committee to write these economically-sound and environmentally-intelligent principles into the forthcoming legislation."

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*Clean Air Task Force is a non-profit environmental organization with offices throughout the United States and in China that works to protect the earth's atmosphere by improving air quality and reducing global climate change through scientific research, public advocacy, technological innovation and private sector collaboration. For more information, please visit [www.catf.us](http://www.catf.us). For a copy of Mr. Schneider's testimony, please go to: [www.catf.us/resources/testimony](http://www.catf.us/resources/testimony).*