

April 19, 2016

Dear Senator Kefalas,

This letter is in support of the Senate introduction of HB 16-1319.

The intentional alteration of pollution controls in order to intentionally exhibit smoke is a serious issue in Fort Collins. Downtown Fort Collins is a target for light-diesel drivers who alter and intentionally exhibit smoke. For whatever reason they do this, this intentional act of blasting pollutants into pedestrians and bikers needs to be stopped. This particulate matter is harmful to our health and environment. As asthmatics this issue is of even greater importance to us because this type of intentional act is unavoidable. These pollutants have a serious impact on asthmatics as the particulate matter can directly cause asthma symptoms including coughing and the inability to breathe. In addition, the effects are also more pronounced for children, infants, and senior citizens. The smoke that is exhausted also blocks bicyclist and driver views. If you have never had this act done to you, then you have never experienced not being able to see what is in front of you. This makes bicycling and driving terribly dangerous.

This bill would give law enforcement the tools they need to protect the health and safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. I urge your colleagues to support your introduction of this bill in the Senate.

Thank you,  
Christian Matthews and Nicole Gruet  
Fort Collins