

May 6, 2004--Today, in Augusta, we had final comments on the TDI exemption petition and a vote by the Board of Environmental Protection.

We lost, 6-3, after testimony from Ron Severance of the DEP, myself, the Maine Automobile Dealers Association and the Natural Resources Council of Maine. There was lengthy discussion. Ron Severance, when asked by the Chairman what the environmental effect of selling 200 TDI's would be, answered "very little."

Still, Sue Jones of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, convinced the majority of the board that it wasn't about fuel efficiency; it wasn't about the "very little" pollution added to our air; it wasn't about renewable energy (biodiesel)...it was about sticking with the California program.

I want to thank all of you for your support and suggestions...it was a case worth bringing. I'm only sorry we could not have prevailed.

Bill Lord