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### **NESCAUM Statement on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Response to Petition for Cleaner Trucks**

December 20, 2016 (Boston) – The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM)<sup>1</sup> welcomes today's announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move forward with efforts to reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) emitted by large trucks traveling the nation's roads.

EPA made its announcement in response to a petition from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (the air quality agency for the greater Los Angeles area) co-signed by the following Northeast states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The City of New York also joined, as well as a number of other states and cities across the country.

Over 42 million people living in the Northeast region (New Jersey, New York, and the New England states) are subject to episodes of poor air quality resulting from ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution (i.e., smog). These pollutants are responsible for tens of thousands of premature deaths, hospital admissions, and lost work and school days in the U.S. annually.

NOx is a major contributor to smog formation, and heavy-duty trucks collectively are a significant source of NOx pollution in the Northeast.

States outside of California have limited authority to regulate truck pollution on their own. While states have the option of adopting California vehicle pollution standards that can be more stringent than federal requirements, this would not address the significant number of long-haul trucks registered in other states that do not also adopt more stringent limits.

Because long-haul trucks registered outside the Northeast are a major part of the interstate freight transport fleet traveling across this region's roads, the Northeast needs a national program to gain the full air quality benefits of cleaner diesel engine technologies.

Arthur Marin, NESCAUM Executive Director, stated, "We applaud EPA for taking a positive step today in continuing our collective efforts towards cleaner air for millions living in the Northeast, and throughout the country."

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<sup>1</sup> NESCAUM is a nonprofit association of air quality agencies in the Northeast. Its Board of Directors consists of the air directors of the six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), New Jersey, and New York. NESCAUM provides scientific, technical, analytical, and policy support to the air quality and climate programs of the eight northeast states, including assistance with the implementation of national environmental programs required under the Clean Air Act and other federal legislation.