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Dear All,

At the end of 2002, Conama (National Council of Environment), because of the huge amount of sulfur content in the diesel sold in Brazil, which accounts for serious lung diseases leading to premature death of around 3000 people per year in the city of São Paulo alone (specially children and the elderly), adopted a resolution providing that as of January 2009 the sulfur concentration shall drop to 50 ppm (parts per million). Currently, this proportion stands at 2000 ppm in rural areas and 500 ppm in metropolitan areas. In Europe and the United States, for instance, sulfur content in the diesel is 10 parts per million tending to reach zero. Despite the long time frame and the gravity of the problem, neither the oil companies nor the automakers have prepared for the change, showing total lack of responsibility.

The Brazilian government (through the Ministry of Environment), under pressure from the companies involved, is negotiating an agreement to postpone and change the Conama Resolution. In case such agreement is signed, it shall mean grievous harm to the public health, affecting mainly all people and families living in large metropolitan areas. Only the pressure of society can make the parties involved comply with the Conama Resolution, thus preserving the health and life of thousands of Brazilian people.

In this sense, we would kindly request the inclusion of your name and/or of your organization's or company's in the petition below that will be handed to the Minister of Environment, Carlos Minc (acting on behalf of the Brazilian government), to the Public Prosecutor's Office, to the governance of the oil companies and automakers, to national and international organizations involved with corporate social responsibility and human rights issues, and to the embassies of the automakers' countries of origin. Your support should be forwarded to Movimento Nossa São Paulo (Our São Paulo Movement), preferably no later than Aug 21st to Zuleica Goulart at zuleica@isps.org.br.

We would much appreciate it if you sent this petition to the organizations and people of your network.

Thank you in advance for your support, which will be of paramount importance to such relevant cause.

Yours sincerely,

Our São Paulo Movement, Akatu Institute, Greenpeace, São Paulo Forum on Global Climate Change and Biodiversity, SOS Mata Atlântica, Instituto Brasileiro de Advocacia Pública (IBAP), Brazilian Institute for Consumer Defense (IDEC), Friends of the Earth – Brazilian Amazon, Associação dos Professores de Direito Ambiental do Brasil, Instituto O Direito por um Planeta Verde e Associação Brasileira do Ministério Público do Meio Ambiente