

By Traci Watson
USA TODAY

As truckers drive their rigs into the nation's capital today to protest high fuel prices, the White House is considering new rules that would clean up the exhaust from diesel trucks — and would raise diesel fuel prices at least a few cents a gallon.

The Environmental Protection Agency has planned since early last year to make diesel trucks cleaner. But in a stroke of bad luck for the agency, its plan landed in President Clinton's budget office at the same time the average price for a gallon of diesel fuel topped \$1.49. The price last March was \$1 a gallon.

"It would be really amazing if someone would be stupid enough to come up with that kind of proposal right now," said Jim Johnston of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, which represents independent truckers. "They would probably

representing refineries and retailers sent a letter Monday to EPA Administrator Carol Browner asking her to withdraw it.

Industry officials admit the current anger over fuel prices works to their advantage. "It's very difficult to get people to focus on supply and price impacts when a barrel goes for \$10," said Bob Slaughter of the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association. Now, "we find people are a little more receptive to our call for reasonable standards."

The EPA proposal would drastically lower the amount of sulfur in diesel fuel. Sulfur, which occurs naturally in oil, gums up catalytic converters. Today's diesel fuel contains an average of 350 parts of sulfur per million parts of fuel. Refiners said the EPA wants to cap sulfur at 15 ppm by 2006, and they would have to make costly and time-consuming changes to their equipment to meet such standards. They warned that refineries might

cancel from diesel exhaust during a 70-year period.

The state and local officials say that the cost to manufacturers of meeting the EPA's proposed standard would be far lower than the industry estimate. They point to fuel regulations that have cost much less than refiners' prediction.

"We think it's going to cost a nickel a gallon or less, and history is in our favor," said Bill Becker, representative for the environmental officials.

The EPA also wants to impose stricter pollution-control equipment on large diesel trucks.

The proposal follows a 1999 EPA rule that lowers sulfur in gasoline at an estimated cost of a few cents a gallon and requires extra tailpipe controls for sport-utility vehicles. Agency officials plan to announce their proposal in late spring or early summer.

Code targets gunmakers

N.Y.'s attorney general wants states to focus on companies' 'bottom lines'

By Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

New York's top law enforcement official today will urge federal, state and local governments to buy guns only from manufacturers who sign a code of conduct.

The action by state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, a Democrat, comes on the heels of a sweeping gun-control package proposed Wednesday by New York Gov. George Pataki, a Republican who broke from his party's top leaders.

Taken together, the one-two punch adds to the growing national outcry for stricter controls on firearms after a string of high-profile shootings.

Spitzer's code of conduct calls for governments to stop buying guns from manufacturers who do not install trigger locks and other safeguards and allow independent monitoring of their compliance.

"Government sales are very significant," the attorney general says. "We must get the gun companies' attention by focusing on their bottom lines."

Law enforcement agencies purchase near-

ly 10% of the handguns sold in the USA, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which represents gun manufacturers.

Spitzer was to sign an executive order today making his department the first to demand compliance with the code of conduct. He won support for his plan Wednesday from several mayors and county leaders in New York. Spitzer has yet to take his plan national.

Bob Delfay, president of the shooting sports foundation, says police departments may not support the proposal. "Many of the things that Attorney General Spitzer has been asking the industry to do have not been done because of concerns by law enforcement," he says.

Pataki broke with Republican leaders Wednesday, calling for trigger locks, background checks for gun-show purchases, a ban on assault weapons and a boost in the minimum age for gun purchases from 18 to 21.

The governor also urged that manufacturers and dealers "fingerprint" the bullets and shell casings by firing test shots from guns in their inventories. They would then submit them to a state database used by police to trace guns used in crimes.

"I'm not concerned about the politics here," said Pataki, who's been mentioned as a possible vice presidential candidate. "I'm concerned about the policy. And the policy will make our streets safer."



In contrast Eliot Spitzer calls government sales 'significant.'

By Tim Rokeck, AP

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Last Name	First Name	Title	City/County	ST	N/O		Telephone		FAX	Conference Call	Attend
Jennings	Gerald	The Honorable	City of Albany	NY	N	912	431-3234	912	431-3223		
		The Honorable	City of Amsterdam	NY	N						
Shaffer	Richard	The Honorable	City of Babylon	NY	N						
Yunits	John	The Honorable	City of Brockton	MA	N	508	580-7123	508	559-7960		Yes
Masiello	Anthony	The Honorable	City of Buffalo	NY	N	716	851-4841	716	851-4360		
Powell	Debra	The Honorable	City of East St. Louis	IL	N	618	482-6601	618	482-6829	Yes	
Bollwage	J. Christian	The Honorable	City of Elizabeth	NJ	N	908	820-4170	908	820-0130		
		The Honorable	City of Glen Cove	NY	N						
Jackson	Linda	The Honorable	City of Glendale Heights	IL	N	630	260-6000	630	260-9728		
Dedelow	Duane	The Honorable	City of Hammond	IN	N	219	853-6301	219	931-0831		
Hogan	Shawn	The Honorable	City of Hornell	NY	N						
Dean	Jean	The Honorable	City of Huntington	WV	N	304	696-5540	304	696-4493		
Cohen	Alan	The Honorable	City of Ithaca	NY	N						
Marinovich	Carol	The Honorable	City of Kansas City	MO	N	913	573-5010	913	573-5540		
Dowling	Patricia	The Honorable	City of Lawrence	MA	N	978	794-5858	978	794-5832		
McGlynn	Michael	The Honorable	City of Medford	MA	N	781	393-2408	781	393-2342		
Marinan	Joseph	The Honorable	City of Meriden	CT	N	203	630-4125	203	630-4274		
DeStefano	Joseph	The Honorable	City of Middletown	NY	N	914	346-4166	914	343-7439		
Davis	Ernest	The Honorable	City of Mount Vernon	NY	N	914	665-2300	914	665-2496		
DeStefano	John	The Honorable	City of New Haven	CT	N	203	946-8200	203	946-7683		
			City of Orangetown	NY	N						
Moore	Walter	The Honorable	City of Pontiac	MI	N	248	857-7611	248	338-7680		
Kaine	Timothy	The Honorable	City of Richmond	VA	N	804	780-7977	804	698-3027		
Bowers	David	The Honorable	City of Roanoke	VA	N	216	656-0600	216	656-3446		
Johnson	William	The Honorable	City of Rochester	NY	N	716	428-7045	716	428-6059	(Linda Kinsley?)	
Wagnon	Joan	The Honorable	City of Topeka	KS	N	785	368-3895	785	368-3850		
Pattison	Mark	The Honorable	City of Troy	NY	N	518	270-4495	518	270-4609		
Rooff	John	The Honorable	City of Waterloo	IA	N	319	291-4301	319	291-4286		Yes
Borer	H.	The Honorable	City of West Haven	CT	N	203	937-3510	203	937-3704		
Young	Wilbert	The Honorable	City of Wilkinsburg	PA	N	412	244-2920	412	241-5844		Yes
Carlson	Brenda	Ms.	County of San Mateo	CA	N	650	363-4760	650	363-4034		
Williams	Anthony	The Honorable	District of Columbia	DC	N	202	727-6263	202	727-6561		Yes
DVeronica	Rocco	Mr.	Madison County	NY	N	315	697-9291	315	366-2502		
Hilliard	Patsy	The Honorable	The City of East Point	GA	N	404	765-1004	404	209-5100		

Frankel	Sandra	The Honorable	Town of Brighton	NY	N						
Spano	Andrew	The Honorable	Westchester County	NY	N						
Harris	Jeremy	The Honorable	City and County of Honolulu	HI	O	808	523-4141	808	527-5552		
Plusquellic	Donald	The Honorable	City of Akron	OH	O	330	375-2345	330	375-2468	No	
Campbell	William	The Honorable	City of Atlanta	GA	O	404	330-6021	404	658-7381		
Dean	Shirley	The Honorable	City of Berkeley	CA	O	510	844-6484	510	644-6255		
Fernandez	John	The Honorable	City of Bloomington	IN	O	812	349-3406	812	349-3455		
Menino	Thomas	The Honorable	City of Boston	MA	O	617	635-4500	617	635-2858		
Ganim	Joseph	The Honorable	City of Bridgeport	CT	O	203	576-7201	203	576-8252		
Vela	Blanca	The Honorable	City of Brownsville	TX	O	956	546-8622	956	546-8622		
Archer	Dennis	The Honorable	City of Detroit	MI	O	313	224-3400	313	224-4433		
Bowser	Robert	The Honorable	City of East Orange	NJ	O	973	266-5151	973	266-5135		
Wilson	Sharifa	The Honorable	City of East Palo Alto	CA	O	650	853-3100	650	853-3115		
Stanley	Woodrow	The Honorable	City of Flint	MI	O	810	766-7346	810	766-7218		
King	Scott	The Honorable	City of Gary	IN	O	219	881-1301	219	881-1337		
Tobey	Bruce	The Honorable	City of Gloucester	MA	O	978	281-9700	978	281-9738		
VanArsdale	Lori	The Honorable	City of Hemet	CA	O	909	765-2303	909	765-3785		
Dom	Roosevelt	The Honorable	City of Inglewood	CA	O	310	412-5300	310	330-5733		
Hahn	James	Mr.	City of Los Angeles	CA	O	213	485-5408	213	847-3014		
Bauman	Susan	The Honorable	City of Madison	WI	O	608	266-4611	608	267-8671		
Morial	Marc	The Honorable	City of New Orleans	LA	O	504	565-6400	504	565-8076		
James	Sharpe	The Honorable	City of Newark	NJ	O	973	733-6400	973	733-5352		
Brown	Jerry	The Honorable	City of Oakland	CA	O	510	238-3141	510	238-4731		
Cianci	Vincent	The Honorable	City of Providence	RI	O	401	421-7740	401	274-8240		
Renne	Louise	Ms.	City of San Francisco	CA	O	415	554-4748	415	554-3837		
Williams	Patrick	The Honorable	City of San Jacinto	CA	O	909	654-7337	909	654-3728		
Miller	Harriet	The Honorable	City of Santa Barbara	CA	O	805	564-5318	805	564-5475		
Albano	Michael	The Honorable	City of Springfield	MA	O	413	787-6100	413	787-6104		
Harmon	Clarence	The Honorable	City of St. Louis	MO	O	314	622-3201	314	622-4061		
Malloy	Dannel	The Honorable	City of Stamford	CT	O	203	977-4150	203	977-5845		
Penelas	Alexander	The Honorable	County of Metro Dade	FL	O	305	375-5071	305	375-3618		
Hightower	Michael	Mr.	Fulton County, GA	GA	O	404	730-4259	404	730-8258		
Blumenthal	Richard	Mr.	State of Connecticut	CT	O	860	808-5314	860	808-5387		Yes
Curran	Joseph	Mr.	State of Maryland	MD	O	410	576-6300	410	576-6404		
Spitzer	Eliot	Mr.	State of New York	NY	O	212	416-6125	212	416-8139		

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FOR RELEASE
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HUD PREFERS GUN PURCHASES FROM COMPANIES ADHERING TO CODE OF CONDUCT, CALLS ON MAYORS TO UNITE IN PREFERENCE FOR THE COMPANIES

WASHINGTON -- Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo today announced he will direct the nation's 3,200 public housing authorities to give preference in their gun purchases to any gun makers that adopt a new code of responsible conduct. The new code, agreed upon Friday by Smith & Wesson and the Clinton Administration, will make guns safer and keep them out of the hands of children and criminals.

In addition to covering gun purchases by housing authorities, Cuomo's directive – to be implemented by regulation – will encourage the authorities to apply the same requirement to private subcontractors that provide security at housing developments.

The agreement was signed Friday by state and local governments along with Smith & Wesson and the Clinton Administration. Purchases by housing authorities will have to be made consistent with all local, state and federal procurement laws and regulations.

In addition, Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penales, and Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell today joined Cuomo in calling on local governments around the nation to issue the same directive to their police and sheriff's departments.

Action by local law enforcement departments to prefer gun purchases from gun manufacturers that adopt the design and distribution standards would have a major impact. More than a quarter of all firearms sales in the nation are to law enforcement agencies.

"It's in the interest of housing authorities, local governments and the American people to reduce gun violence and save lives, and our agreement with Smith & Wesson will achieve these goals," Cuomo said. "Any company that signs this agreement deserves our support and our business for acting responsibly and in the public interest."

Local and state governments joined Smith & Wesson – America's largest gun manufacturer – and the Clinton Administration in approving the code of conduct Friday. The local governments and the Clinton Administration agreed to drop pending lawsuits against Smith & Wesson as part of the agreement.

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The following local governments have so far approved the agreement: Miami-Dade County, FL; Los Angeles, Inglewood, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Sacramento and Berkeley in California; Bridgeport, CT; Atlanta, GA; Camden, NJ; St. Louis, MO; Detroit, MI; Gary, IN; New Orleans; Newark, NJ. More of the 30 local governments with pending lawsuits against gun makers soon could decide to sign the agreement.

As a result of its approval of the code of conduct, Smith & Wesson will undertake a series of actions. Among these, the company will: 1) Install mandatory gun locks and other child-safety devices on all guns. 2) Introduce "smart gun" technology in all newly designed handguns. 3) Bar gun sales – including gun show sales – without a background check of the buyer. 4) Limit multiple handgun sales. Fifteen local governments and two states have also approved the landmark agreement.

Kevin Marchman, Executive Director of the National Organization of African Americans in Housing, said his group supports the code of conduct agreement and actions that encourage compliance with the code.

"By this brave action, Smith & Wesson has singled itself out for attack by those who choose to shield themselves behind false arguments, rather than accept common sense practices that both protect our children from harm and our rights," Marchman said. "By enforcing new sales practices, Smith and Wesson is acting as a responsible corporate citizen and gun consumers should reward them for this action. We look forward to working with the Administration and HUD in making this gun safety agreement universal."

The agreement was signed for the Clinton Administration Friday by Cuomo and Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers. In addition, the agreement was signed by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal on behalf of their states. Smith & Wesson President and CEO L.E. Shultz signed the agreement for the company.

The U.S. government will require any additional gun manufacturers joining in the agreement to meet all the requirements set for Smith & Wesson, with the possibility of some additional concessions.

The agreement is the product of negotiations between HUD, the Treasury Department and local governments with Smith & Wesson that were designed to settle lawsuits already filed against Smith & Wesson and to make new ones unnecessary.

The agreement is designed to reduce the toll of gun violence, which annually claims over 30,000 lives and injures another 100,000 people in crimes, accidents and suicides around the nation.

A commission made up of two representatives from local governments, one from states, one from Smith & Wesson and one selected by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will oversee the agreement.

The Oversight Commission will have the power to notify Smith & Wesson of any gun dealer violations. This notification will trigger penalties against gun dealers by Smith & Wesson and the Commission that could include barring dealers from selling Smith & Wesson products.

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Smith & Wesson will also take action, including suspension or termination, against dealers responsible for a disproportionate number of crime gun traces. This provision is designed to focus industry attention on the relatively small number of current dealers that are the source of many guns used in crimes. An estimated 57 percent of guns used in crimes are sold by just 1.2 percent of dealers.

Under the agreement, all guns must have child safety devices, include internal locks, hidden serial numbers and pass stringent performance tests.

Smith & Wesson will also devote 2 percent of revenues to develop "smart gun" technology and will equip all newly designed guns with such technology within three years. "Smart guns" can only be fired by an authorized person, making them useless in the hands of thieves or children who could get hold of guns.

Other provisions of the agreement, which apply to Smith & Wesson and its dealers include requirements that:

- No sales can be made until the buyer passes a background check.
- Guns cannot be marketed to appeal to children or criminals.
- No sales can be made at a gun show unless background checks are performed for all sales.
- A purchaser can take home only one gun at the time of purchase and must wait two weeks to pick up additional guns. This is designed to prevent illegal traffickers from buying large quantities of guns.
- Within six months, packaging of new guns must include a warning on the risk of having a firearm in the home and suggestions for safe storage.
- Gun stores must have a security plan and guns and bullets must be kept locked and separated.
- Gun dealer employees must complete annual training and pass an exam.
- Distributors can only sell to other distributors or dealers that agree to abide by the agreement.
- Smith & Wesson agrees to work with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to establish a system for firing each gun it makes and entering digital images of the casings into the National Integrated Ballistics Identification (NIBIN) system and accessible by ATF. This will make it easier for law enforcement to trace bullet casings used in crimes back to the guns that fired them.
- Establishment of a trust fund by Smith & Wesson to implement a public service campaign to inform people about the risk of firearms in the home, proper home storage, the importance of proper disposal and need to reduce gun violence.

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