



FALL RIVER COUNTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Fall River County Courthouse
906 North River Street
Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747
Phone: (605) 745-5130, Fax: (605) 745-6835

February 5, 2026

Dear Congressmen, Representatives, and Governor Roden

California developed an extremely stringent air quality control standard. In turn, the auto industry adopted this standard across the nation, which caused the development of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) to be a requirement for all diesel engines. This DEF has been a major problem for anyone who runs a diesel engine. It requires a number of other additions to the exhaust system that reduced the engine efficiency and greatly increased the cost of manufacturing each diesel engine.

The diesel particulate filter in particular, costs thousands of dollars and was frequently stolen. This DEF fluid caused so many additional problems and reduced the efficiency of diesel engines so markedly, any benefits achieved were lost due to reduced fuel efficiency, mileage, and the increase in the complexity of the engine itself.

The Trump Administration, according to a recent post on the YouTube channel of TK's Garage, has indicated that it will remove the requirement for DEF and will no longer pursue prosecution by the Justice Department of those who have deleted their vehicles. This is wonderful news for farmers, over-the-road truckers and any diesel engine owner.

Fall River County Commissioners would like to strongly encourage support by our State and Federal Representatives to make this the law of the land. We don't need California rules.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Falkenburg
Fall River County Commission Chairman

Deb Russell
Fall River Commission Vice-Chair

Joe Allen, Commissioner

Les Cope, Commissioner

Sandra Wahlert, Commissioner

