



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Missoula Receives \$1.13 Million Grant from EPA to Reduce Idling Train Emissions

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Get ready to breathe a little easier. Montana Rail Link (MRL) trains are going to undergo retrofits so they create less pollution while idling downtown. Thanks to a \$1.13 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Missoula's Metropolitan Planning Organization, 34 MRL trains will be outfitted with small, efficient back-up power engines. These Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) run in place of the main engine while the train is idling. Using the APUs keeps the essential functions of the engine warm but produces over 90 percent fewer emissions than the main engine.

MRL has already begun to upgrade its locomotives to modern, clean-burning engines and to retrofit older engines with auxiliary power units. This grant will allow the remaining older engines to be upgraded over the next year. EPA's Clean Diesel program goals to reduce diesel fuel consumption and diesel emissions are consistent with Montana Rail Link's ongoing efforts to operate more efficiently and in the cleanest manner possible. This partnership with the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization will allow MRL to accelerate its existing efforts to retrofit its locomotive fleet used in Montana, thus ensuring that every MRL locomotive that passes through Missoula is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art emissions reduction technology.

"This is the best of both worlds. It's creating jobs and taking a step to protect Montana's outdoor heritage at the same time," said Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee. "Dynamic, real-world solutions like this are the reason Montana continues to be a leader in new technology and remains the best place on earth to live, work and raise a family."

Sen. Jon Tester agrees. "This project will put Montanans to work improving our transportation infrastructure and making the air we breathe a little cleaner," he said. "Folks across our state benefit from cleaner energy and the jobs that come with it."

The project will assist in improving Missoula's air quality by lowering particulates, nitrogen dioxide, hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide. Emissions savings are roughly equivalent to taking 750 cars off the road every year. Use of APUs will result in an annual reduction of 5,423 tons of air pollutants and save 471,676 gallons of diesel annually.

"We are proud to work with the Environmental Protection Agency and the MPO on this project, which will improve air quality and enhance the long-term health of the citizens of Missoula and Montana as a whole," said Claude Van Winkle, Chief Mechanical Officer.

This local project mirrors a national effort by the Clean Air Task Force and Diesel Clean-Up Campaign.

"We consider the reduction of diesel idling time on MRL locomotives to be a boon for public health as well as for mitigating global warming," says Lilly Tuholske, Montana field representative for the Clean Air Task Force and the national Diesel Clean-up Campaign. "Any time you reduce emissions from diesel-powered engines – and this is a significant reduction – you get benefits in both of these critical areas."

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