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## Parents push for cleaner air

By LUZ PEÑA / Vida en el Valle

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FRESNO — Every time Margarita Guzmán sees a diesel truck speed on Highway 99 not far from her home, she begins to cringe.

The mother of four worries that her children, including two who attend nearby Addams Elementary School, will develop asthma from all the toxic smog and soot left behind.

"I worry a lot because my friend's children all have asthma. Fortunately my children don't have it," said Guzmán. "I feel companies who use the highway to ship their goods should do their fair share in keeping the air cleaner."

Guzmán is not alone in her desire to get companies to be more responsible for cleaner air. Last Tuesday, Guzmán joined the Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative in releasing the 'Paying With Our Health: The Real Cost of Freight Transport in California' report.

The report, authored by the Pacific Institute, suggests that companies should take a more proactive role in getting cleaner air for California. Other clean air advocacy groups contributed to the report.

Forty percent of all containers imported to the United States come through California ports, according to the report. Goods must then be transported by aircraft, trains or diesel trucks.

"We want companies like Wal-Mart, Target and Home Depot to do their fair share to keep our air clean," said Nadia Bautista, community engagement director for Coalition for Clean Air. "They're making money from the community, they should do their part to help."

The California Air Resources Board could use 29 cents of every dollar from California-dependent freight transport to generate \$667 million to clean nitrogen oxides and diesel particulate matter by at least 64 percent, said the report.

"Children each day in these low-income communities are exposed to dirty air," said Pahoua Lor, Director of SAIFA, Coalition for Clean Air. "These companies need to help clean up the air."

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