

January 23, 2008

Colonel James Baker, Director
Vermont State Police
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-2101

Re: Enforcement of 23 V.S.A. §1111, Unattended Motor Vehicles

Dear Colonel Baker:

I am the Lamoille County Coordinator for Idle-Free VT (idlefreevt.org), a statewide grassroots campaign to raise awareness about the idling of motor vehicles. As you know, it is a violation of Vermont law to idle a vehicle while it is unattended. This law is blatantly violated by many people. The purpose of this letter is to encourage all law enforcement agencies to enforce 23 V.S.A. §1111. The purposes of motor vehicle laws are to support the health, safety and welfare of the people. Much harm is caused by the idling of motor vehicles. Some of the reasons are:

- An unattended vehicle could start rolling and cause physical damage to persons or property. It is my understanding that the United Parcel Service requires all of its drivers to always shut off their truck when unattended because an unattended UPS truck that was left idling started rolling while idling and ran over two children, killing them.

- Another legislative reason behind 23 V.S.A. §1111 is to lessen the risk of stolen vehicles. A running, unattended vehicle is an attractive target for a thief.

- The emissions from idling motor vehicles contribute to air pollution, causing harm to all people that breathe, particularly the elderly, the young and the asthmatic.

- Other reasons that are not directly related to law enforcement, such as needless engine wear and tear, wasted fuel and contributing to global climate change.

Please seriously consider this request to enforce an existing Vermont law. Please let me know if your department will take a position on this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Polow
P.O. Box 130
Hyde Park, VT 05655