



## Please Support HB 3448

Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) asks you to support HB 3448, which will help ensure a reliable source of back up power to transmit and broadcast critical information to Oregonians during emergency situations.

OPB uses diesel generators as back up power back if and when we lose electrical power at our headquarters and transmitter stations. It also is during these times when OPB is called upon to provide emergency communications. Reliable back up systems is critical if we're called upon to vital public interest role.

OPB is an independent, non-profit organization that receives no operating support from the state of Oregon. However, OPB continues to play a significant public service role as the State Primary station for the Emergency Alert System.

In the event of a statewide, regional, or national emergency, OPB initiates messages informing other broadcasters (commercial and non-commercial), viewers and listeners of a wide variety of emergencies including Amber Alerts, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

During the recent Hurricane Sandy, millions in the New York metropolitan area were without power. Cell phone networks, cable television and internet service were disrupted. Were it not for the public broadcasting station, WNYC, which maintained their critical broadcasts on emergency conditions, people would be completely in the dark about the severity of the storm, where to seek shelter or help, and the recovery efforts.

The experience with Hurricane Sandy we learned the only reliable method of communication in an emergency is good old-fashioned radio. Most people have AM/FM radio receivers in their cars. Many have crank radio as part of their emergency supplies. Were Oregon to experience a major earthquake, radio would likely be the only lifeline.

To play that critical role if that time comes, OPB must have a 100 percent reliable source of back up power. Everything for the Emergency Alert System links through our main building and if power is lost and our primary generator is unable to function the entire state is affected.

There are significant uncertainties about stability and reliability of biodiesel when stored for long periods of time. It is imperative that our emergency generators start and maintain continuous service – for hours or days, if necessary.

This biodiesel exemption is important for OPB if and when we are called in to service for our community. We ask you to support HB 3448. Thank you.