



April 1, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Edwards and Senators,

Children First wants Oregon to be the best place to be a kid. We strive to make change by advocating for policies and programs that keep children healthy and safe while providing opportunities to allow their families to be healthy.

Unfortunately their health is threatened by diesel emissions. Oregon does not have its own diesel regulations, unlike our neighbor to the south. In addition, many of the dirty engines no longer allowed in California are then sold and used in Oregon. The combination of these two factors helps explain why Oregon's air is some of the most dangerous in the nation when we should have some of the cleanest.

The pollutants emitted by these loosely regulated engines are shown by numerous studies to cause impaired lung function among children¹². In addition the fine particles in diesel pollutants have been associated with more instances of asthma in children.³ The science is clear in its assessment of diesel engines. From the same article:

"Federal and state governments' policies should encourage reductions in mobile and stationary sources of air pollution ... and programs that support marked improvements in fuel emissions of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles."⁴

To help protect the air for Oregon's children and to make a brighter future for everyone, Children First for Oregon asks for your support SB 824.

Thank you for your attention and your work for the health of Oregon's children.

¹ Sherwin RP, Richters V, Kraft P, Richters A. Centriacinar region inflammatory disease in young individuals: a comparative study of Miami and Los Angeles residents. *Virchows Arch* 2000; **437**: 422–8.

² Gauderman WJ, Avol E, Gilliland F, et al. The effect of air pollution on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age. *N Engl J Med* 2004; **351**:1057–67.

³ Kim JJ. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. Ambient air pollution: health hazards to children. *Pediatrics* 2004;**114**: 1699–707.

⁴ IBID