



April 1, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 824

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

The Port of Portland (Port) recognizes that both near-term and longer-term actions are needed to reduce emissions from diesel engines, to lower health impacts and to help the Portland metropolitan region maintain compliance with the Federal ambient air quality standards for particulate matter. In the near-term, there is a unique opportunity for the Port and other public agencies to play a leadership role by incentivizing the market to use clean diesel off-road construction equipment through the public contracting process. The Port supports the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality setting best available technology standards for clean diesel off-road construction equipment used on public improvement construction projects because it would provide public agencies with broad, statewide, uniform standards for contractors. This near-term action would enable public agencies to take a lead role in reducing diesel emissions from construction equipment. Construction equipment is one of the Portland Air Toxic Solutions project's top five air toxic priorities.

The air quality benefits of adopting California's regulations to try to accelerate fleet turnover in Oregon has not yet been evaluated. In lieu of legislation on registration of off-road diesel vehicles and adoption of California's diesel emission requirements, and in support of a longer-term approach to reducing diesel emissions, the Port supports statewide engagement of public and private stakeholders, regulators and the environmental community in designing solutions that will be the most effective in reducing diesel emissions in our region. One solution may include greater incentive programs at the state level to fund projects that reduce emissions from existing diesel engines, helping to accelerate the transition to cleaner burning vehicles by retrofitting and replacing older diesel engines.

We look forward to working with the committee on amendments to Senate Bill 824.

Sincerely,

Phil Ralston
Phil Ralston
Environmental Operations General Manager
on behalf of Catherine Calder

Mission: To enhance the region's economy and quality of life
by providing efficient cargo and air passenger access
to national and global markets, and by promoting industrial development.

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