



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Charlie Hales, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

April 1, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of SB 824 as part of the City of Portland's commitment to reduce diesel emissions and promote improved air quality.

Emissions from diesel equipment are toxic to humans. The emissions are so small they can cross through our lungs directly into our bloodstream causing cancer, asthma, strokes, heart attacks and premature death. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, each ton of diesel emissions released in Portland results in almost \$400,000 in environmental and public health costs. North Portland has the highest level of diesel in the state, nearly 20 times the health standard. As a state, Oregon ranks sixth in the nation for highest health risk from diesel pollution.

The City of Portland has been working to reduce diesel emissions since 2006, retrofitting all of the City's construction equipment with diesel exhaust filters as part of a federal grant project. However, addressing diesel emissions through City policy alone is exceedingly difficult, and the aggregate benefits of such efforts are limited.

We urge your support for SB 824 to regulate diesel emissions and promote better air quality for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
Commissioner