

**From:** Denice Blake <[denice.blake@bend.k12.or.us](mailto:denice.blake@bend.k12.or.us)>  
**Date:** April 17, 2015 at 2:37:03 PM PDT  
**To:** "[beth.reiley@state.or.us](mailto:beth.reiley@state.or.us)" <[beth.reiley@state.or.us](mailto:beth.reiley@state.or.us)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Biodiesel Issues

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**From:** Denice Blake  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2015 11:15 AM  
**To:** Sen Whitsett; [william.jorgensen@state.or.us](mailto:william.jorgensen@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** Dave Voiles; Jay Mathisen  
**Subject:** Re: Biodiesel Issues

Dave Voiles addressed the more technical side of the diesel issue but I get to deal with the more emotional impact of having our fuel gel and not being able to run buses.

When the temperatures are cold enough, below zero, for the fuel to gel, we don't always have the information to make that determination until after buses have left the compounds and tried to begin their bus routes. The news media has most probably announced all through the morning that school is in session. Students leave home to go to their bus stops and parents, assuming their students are on the way to school leave for work.

Then our fuel starts gelling and the filters solidify and the buses just stop running, often times they can't even make it back to the bus garage. Now we have students standing in -0 temps, they don't know if their bus is just late or not coming at all. They may decide they need to go back home after standing outside and waiting, for an extended time, but parents have already gone for the day so they are home alone. Depending on where parents work, and whether they have access to media or their phones they may not know their kids are not at school for some time. If they do know they have to scramble to make day care arrangements at the last minute.

My bus drivers have, in past weather events such as this, gone out in their personal cars to tell the students waiting at their bus stops that school is canceled and to go back home, This goes above and beyond their job expectation but they are committed to the children they work with.

We then get phone calls about how irresponsible we are by not making these decisions sooner, not notify the public, that some "stranger" is driving around in a car telling children to go home.

Parents tell us their jobs may be jeopardized as they have to interrupt their work to provide for their children. AND children are missing school, not because the roads are unsafe, but because the fuel won't flow through the bus.

This can all be avoided by allowing our fuel to be adjusted to cold weather operations. I am a born and raised Oregonian and I certainly do understand the concerns my state has had, for decades, to protect Oregon's environment. I remember participating in some of the first "Earth Day" school projects back in the 60's and I am grateful to "Keep Oregon Green" however sometimes we need to use common sense and protect our children and serve our public.

Thank you for your work on this important issue,

Denice Blake

Director of Transportation

Bend La Pine Schools

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