



COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

**Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Support for Senate Bill 1008
March 8, 2017**

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mac Gillespie and I am the Healthy Communities Coordinator for the Benton County Health Department. I am here today on behalf of the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) which represents the 34 Local Public Health Departments in Oregon who work to protect the public's health. CLHO supports SB 1008 and urges the committee to take action on this important legislation.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials support this legislation as it creates standards for both on-road diesel fleets and off-road diesel engines, and incentive programs that will accelerate the cleanup of dirty diesel engines in Oregon.

Diesel exhaust comes from multiple sources including trucks and school buses, and is made up of fine sooty particles and more than 40 hazardous substances. Exposure to diesel exhaust causes cancer; increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular disease, exacerbates asthma and can lead to low-weight and preterm births.

Oregon's 34 local public health departments work to create opportunities for health by protecting Oregonians from the spread of disease and working to support new moms and babies on a pathway to life-long health. Research shows that the first 1000 days of a child's life are the most important, and early-life exposure to diesel pollution can create changes in the brain that raise the risk of neurological disease later in life. Research has also shown that children who live within 500 meters of a major roadway show substantial lung deficits—exposure to air pollution is the number one cause of child hospitalization, child chronic health condition, and chronic illness causing school absences.

Furthermore, addressing diesel pollution is not only a health issue, but an equity issue as well. People in poor and non-white neighborhoods are more likely to be exposed to diesel exhaust pollution, and in Oregon, both asthma and heart disease are more prevalent in low-income households.

Oregon is falling behind in protecting everyone in our state from deadly diesel pollution. Diesel pollution puts 90% of people in Oregon at risk for cancer and causes up to 460 premature deaths in each year. The single biggest return on investment for diesel upgrades is saved lives and avoided health costs.

The health of Oregon's children and families is priceless. If we do nothing, Oregonians will continue to have diminished health from diesel pollution for decades.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials urges your support of SB 1008.



For more information please contact Morgan Cowling, Executive Director
morgan@oregonclho.org | 503-329-6923 | oregonclho.org

