



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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March 8, 2017

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 1008

Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

The City of Portland supports legislation to reduce emissions of particulate matter from diesel combustion. We commend the process and product that led to the introduction of SB 1008, and support many of the included strategies to transition away from older diesel engines.

Diesel exhaust is 100 times more toxic than gasoline exhaust, and includes fine sooty particles layered in heavy metals and toxic gases. North Portland has the highest level of diesel particulate matter in the state, nearly 20 times the health standard. In order to address effects on human health, the City of Portland has prioritized improved air quality through replacement and retrofits of high-polluting diesel equipment since 2006. With Federal and State grant funding, the City of Portland has retrofitted nearly all of its diesel equipment with emission control devices. However, addressing diesel emissions through City policy alone is exceedingly difficult, and the aggregate benefits of such efforts are limited. The City supports statewide standards and incentives that cover both on-road and off-road fleets.

An important aspect of this bill is the establishment of the Clean Diesel Engine Fund, and the new source of funding from the Volkswagen Settlement. At the same time, it is essential that we maintain previous commitments for use of federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants. Local jurisdictions currently use CMAQ funds for efforts that contribute to air quality improvements and provide congestion relief. The City of Portland does not support efforts to reallocate CMAQ funds to the Clean Diesel Engine Fund. We encourage the committee to explore funding mechanisms other than CMAQ.

The City of Portland appreciates the work of this Committee to address policy and state funding issues that will reduce Oregonians' exposure to harmful diesel exhaust.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson, Director, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

