

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Susan Katz MD  
Testimony to Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee  
Hearing for Senate Bill 1008  
March 8, 2017

The Environmental Health Work Group of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility supports SB 1008 with great enthusiasm. Any effort to decrease harmful diesel particulate matter emissions will lead to a great gain for the health of Oregonians, particularly those who live in urban areas near roadways and train lines, and who are elderly and already burdened with Cardiovascular and Pulmonary diseases.

Our recent fact sheet on this subject will be submitted as a hard copy to document this claim. I believe that the dangers of diesel emissions are underestimated by both DEQ and OHA, and by the experts who testified on this subject on February 23, in that they do not take into account the latest research since 2007. Many large epidemiological studies of humans document serious health effects in many systems of the body in large numbers of Americans and Europeans, which can be linked with increasing certainty to the inhalation of diesel pollution from our air.

We urge the committee to think about the large savings in health costs which will occur with the decrease in diesel emissions which will result from passing this bill.