



To: Chair Ginny Burdick, Senate Committee On Rules
From: Margaret Tallmadge, Coalition of Communities of Color
Re: Support of Senate Bill 1008

May 17, 2017

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) expresses our support for SB 1008 -A3 amendments. SB 1008 was written to address harmful diesel pollution from heavy-duty diesel engines, including trucks and construction equipment, helping keep frontline communities across Oregon—communities of color, low-income communities, tribes, rural communities, immigrants and refugees— healthy and productive. We urge you to reinstate provisions that ensure clear timelines for phasing diesel engines out of our communities and out of Oregon.

The CCC is an alliance of 18 culturally-specific community based organizations working to advance racial justice by addressing socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity in services. We are a diverse coalition of community leaders, organizers, direct service providers, and racial justice advocates that represent a broad cross section of communities in Oregon.

Many of our communities live in close proximity to high traffic corridors and suffer from heightened health risks due to toxic air quality, in particular diesel exhaust. Diesel pollution has grave health consequences for Oregonians, especially for communities of color, low income communities, children and the elderly; increasing the risk of cancer, damaging lungs, brain function, causing heart attacks, infertility and leading to premature death. In addition to disproportionate exposure, our communities have limited ability to afford increased medical bills or move away from a toxic environment.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of the -A3 amendments, but urge you to do more. Only by adopting a timeline to **phase out the dirtiest heavy-duty diesel engines currently in use** can we **meet the state's health-based benchmarks** and ensure Oregonians are no longer at risk of health harm from heavy-duty diesel engines. As well as meeting EPA estimates for retiring old engines, we also support an amendment that allows local governments to create **"no idle" zones** near schools, hospitals, care centers and day care centers, protecting the most vulnerable.

The Coalition of Communities of Color hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to reduce toxic diesel, making frontline communities and the health of Oregonians a priority.

Please contact maggie@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Tallmadge".

Margaret Tallmadge
Environmental Justice Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color

