

Testimony Supporting SB 1008

Chairman Burdick and members of the Senate Committee On Rules:

My name is Dr. Andy Harris. I live in North Portland and am submitting written testimony in support of SB 1008 on behalf of Oregon Center for Christian Voices.

People who suffer the most from diesel emissions are children, the elderly, those with COPD, asthma and heart disease, and low-income folks who live closest to trucking corridors. Diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen, particularly lung cancer, and causes developmental delays.

Because of stricter diesel emissions standards in California and Washington, Oregon has become a dumping ground for older, pre-2007, dirty diesel trucks. SB 1008 should

- prohibit Oregon businesses from adding pre-2007 diesel engines to their fleets
- specify a deadline to phase-out existing dirty engines
- allow localities to create “no idle zones”

SB 1008 is a public health solution that will save lives and improve the health of Oregonians. At a time of EPA budget cuts, states must do everything possible to monitor and regulate toxic pollutants such as diesel emissions.

Jeremiah Chap. 2:7 reads, “And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.” We can do much better today. Let’s clean up our air and not gamble with the health of our children and the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you.

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