



**Senate Committee on Rules
Support for -3 amendment SB 1008
May 17, 2017**

Chair Burdick, Vice Chair Ferrioli and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 34 Local Public Health Departments in Oregon who work to promote health and prevent the spread of disease. CLHO supports the -3 amendment for SB 1008 and encourages the committee to do more to protect the health of everyone in Oregon.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials support the -3 amendment as it moves Oregon in the right direction, yet is not enough to achieve our state's health benchmark. Without a firm timeline for retiring or retrofitting the dirtiest diesel engines currently in use, we will continue to lose lives and pay high costs of chronic diseases attributable to diesel pollution.

Diesel pollution comes from multiple sources including trucks and school buses, and is made up of fine sooty particles and more than 40 hazardous substances Diesel pollution in Oregon is increasing risk of cancer, damaging heart, lungs, and brain function causing premature death costing billions in health care costs and lost productivity.

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.

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 -3 amendment is essential in prohibiting the addition of pre-2007 diesel engines to Oregon fleets. Today, the rate of retirement for old engines in Oregon is lagging behind EPA's estimates. Old engines are lasting longer than expected, and unless we take actions old engines that do not meet California's standards will continue to be sold in Oregon causing everyone in our state to bear the burden of diesel pollution for decades. Furthermore, CLHO supports allowing local governments to create "no idle" zones near schools, hospitals, care centers and day care centers protecting our most vulnerable from exposure to diesel pollution.

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 the -3 amendment to SB 1008.



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