

5/17/2017

To: The Senate Rules Committee

I am writing to let you know that I strongly support SB 1008 and I hope that you will too. This may be the only chance that Oregon gets to support school districts with funds from a legal settlement (the VW settlement) to retrofit school buses, and may be the only chance Oregon has to assist the most vulnerable residents in Oregon with the settlement money as well.

I think retrofitting school buses should be a top priority. It would be a terrible shame to miss the opportunity for Oregon to use the VW settlement funds. Public transit buses receive some federal grant money and must meet some federal standards, but school buses are not required to meet the stricter federal requirements and school districts are often short of funds needed to bring their school buses up to the higher standards. Yet children are at a high risk for health effects from frequent and prolonged exposure to diesel exhaust while riding diesel buses and while waiting at bus stops. It is horrible to see children riding in these unhealthy vehicles. Oregon's bus riding children (more than 240,000 students) spend approx. 30 million hours riding buses every year. Oregon would not need to buy entirely new buses, because the buses can be retrofitted for around \$6-14K.

No one wants children or adults to suffer with asthma, respiratory illness, impaired brain functioning, cancer or heart and lung disease or other conditions. Please take this opportunity to improve Oregon's school buses. Some activists have worked on the diesel problem for many years without success. It is a terrible loss, terribly disappointing, for activists and people that have helped them to see this bill gutted or to just not pass. Please help Oregonians have a victory against harmful diesel effects

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Shana Mita Canote

South Portland Air Quality  
up.