

Public testimony for SB 2008
5/17/17

Thank you, Senator Dembrow, for holding this important hearing on the need to have stronger regulations for diesel pollution in Oregon. (SB 1008). I applaud your efforts to do the right thing and stand by Oregonians who for too long have had to pay the price for lax diesel regulations with their own health.

We all know that diesel pollution causes cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, preterm birth, as well as respiratory illness such as asthma. In fact, Oregon ranks among the five worst states for asthma. The impact of diesel pollution in our state has been shouldered by the residents of Oregon rather than the companies that are using outdated trucks and construction equipment. Oregon can no longer continue to have environmental policies that are a reflection of the interests of industry representatives while dismissing the potential impact pollution is having on the health of Oregon residents. The time is now for the Oregon Legislature to do the right thing and prioritize the health of its residents over industry profits by requiring stricter diesel pollution regulations.

I'm asking you today to please consider Oregonians who suffer from chronic health conditions and the impact diesel pollution is having on our health and economy and to strengthen this very important piece of legislation. A watered down version of SB2008 that placates business interests will not suffice. It's time that we invest in clean air as California and Washington have. Given the funds that are available from the Volkswagen settlement, the time to act is now.

Sincerely,
Vivian Christensen
6130 SE Reed College Place
Portland, OR 97202