

Dear Senate Rules Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Lents neighborhood nonprofit Green Lents and our members to express our support for SB1008 as originally drafted and urge the committee to restore crucial provisions that would protect Lents residents from harmful diesel pollution. With I-205 cutting the neighborhood in half, 82nd Avenue and SE Foster Rd, and many other high-traffic corridors, Lents has some of the worst air quality in Portland--particularly when it comes to dirty diesel. Through a community science project, we helped provide supporting evidence for state air quality models that predict very high levels of diesel pollution in Lents. [\(See our report here\).](#)

- **The amendments proposed move us in the right direction, but will fail to achieve our state's health benchmark(s).** We need a firm and near-term deadline for retiring and retrofitting dirty diesel engines on the roads today, or Lents residents will continue to pay the high cost of chronic disease that comes from long-term exposure diesel pollution.
- **We support the amendment that prohibits the addition of pre-2007 diesel engines to Oregon fleets.** If we do nothing, Oregonians will bear the burden of diesel pollution for decades. Unless we take action, old engines that don't meet California's standards will be sold for many more years of use in Oregon and in vulnerable, diverse communities like Lents.
- **We support an amendment that allows local governments to create "no idle" zones near schools, hospitals, care centers and day care centers.** Lents Town Center, at the intersection of SE 92nd Ave and SE Foster Rd, has high concentrations of diesel particulates and currently five active construction sites using off-road diesel engine vehicles. There are several elementary schools (Lent and Kelly Elementary) within a few short blocks of I-205. This means kids, teachers, and their parents in the neighborhood are exposed to harmful levels of diesel pollution on a frequent basis. [We have collected many stories of residents who suffer the health effects.](#) Indeed, our community air monitoring showed snapshots of diesel pollution that are worrying for public health.
- **The legislature has a responsibility to protect our health, however it can.** Diesel pollution in Oregon is increasing risk of cancer; damaging the heart, lungs; brain function; causing premature death; costing billions in health care costs and lost productivity.
- **Invest in a healthy future for Oregon residents.** Diesel pollution is the sole source of one of Oregon's worst toxic air pollutants, and can contain cadmium, arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde and chromium compounds. Our engagement with Lents residents has shown that air quality is an important issue, and also an issue that affects people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **It's a simple, achievable fix with big-time benefits.** Cleaner diesel engines can run with 95% less pollution; deliver as much as \$17 in health benefits for every clean-up dollar invested; and can deliver short-term benefits to our climate by reducing black carbon pollution.

All the best,

Adam Brunelle
on behalf of Green Lents

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