

May 17, 2017
Senator Ginny Burdick
Oregon State Capitol, S-223
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Audubon Society of Portland's Support of the -3 Amendments to SB 1008

Chair Burdick and members of the Committee:

The Audubon Society of Portland supports the proposed -3 amendment to Senate Bill 1008 proposed by Senator Michael Dembrow. The amendment would prohibit adding older Diesel engines and equipment to public fleets, and restores efforts to extend the retrofit deadline for School Buses, so that district fleet managers can take advantage of the new funds available through the VW settlement, to upgrade school buses that are not on track to be replaced by the 2025 deadline.

Passing SB 1008 with the -3 amendments is imperative because:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Portland Audubon believes the -3 amendment move us in the right direction, but it is still just one step toward achieving our state's health benchmark. We would love to see a firm timeline for retiring or retrofitting the dirtiest diesel engines currently in use. Without which, we will continue to lose lives and pay the high cost of chronic disease attributable to diesel pollution. We however recognize that passing SB 1008 with the -3 amendment is an important step in helping us along that path.

Thank you,

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland