



# Health Department

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June 21, 2017

Senate Committee on Rules  
900 Court St. NE- HR B  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 1008 A - Requires Department of Environmental Quality to hire or contract with third-party organization to complete inventory of nonroad diesel engines

Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Ferrioli, and members of the committee; I am Dr. Paul Lewis and I serve as the Health Officer for Multnomah County Health Department. I am writing you to share my extreme disappointment with the current version of this bill which could have improved the health and quality of life for many Oregonians by speeding the phase out of dirty diesel engines, prevented the dumping of out-of-state engines, and provided an inventory of currently operating engines.

Members of this committee are likely familiar with the current joint DEQ and OHA rule making process, Cleaner Air Oregon, charged with protecting Oregonians from unnecessary exposure to industrial air pollution. While Cleaner Air Oregon is a critical step, industrial emissions statewide are a smaller problem than diesel emissions. Addressing industrial pollutants combined with addressing the danger from dirty diesel engines is the only way to comprehensively address air pollution impacting our communities.

We support the portion of this legislation that designates a portion of Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement funds to be used on school bus retrofits. However, if we remove the parts of the bill that would prevent the dumping of dirty engines from other states in Oregon, the phase out/retrofitting of older engines already here, and the inventory of our current fleet, we continue to endanger vulnerable citizens, particularly children, pregnant women, those with medical conditions, and those who have no choice but to live near busy roadways.

Multnomah County is the most urbanized region in Oregon and thus, bears the heaviest burden from diesel exhaust. We need prompt and practical legislation to decrease the on-going exposure of our citizens.

Paul Lewis, MD  
Health Officer  
Multnomah County Health Department