



June 29, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick, Witt and Members of the Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 represents over 20,000 members in the state of Oregon including our knowledgeable members of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

AFSCME urges your support of SB 1008B. While this is not the piece of robust legislation that was introduced, this bill help Oregon's most vulnerable—our children—with reduction of toxic diesel particulate matter in their school buses.

AFSCME and its members understand the nexus and importance between public health, the environment and using public resources wisely.

Diesel engines are used extensively throughout the United States because of their well-founded reputation for reliability, durability, power and fuel efficiency. However, diesel engines also have a reputation for their smoky and odorous exhaust. Scientific evidence indicates that diesel exhaust is more than just annoying; health assessments have listed it as a probable human carcinogen. In addition, diesel exhaust is known to elevate risk for cardiovascular disease and contribute to chronic respiratory problems such as asthma. Scientists have also identified the soot in diesel exhaust as a significant factor in global warming and regional haze.

DEQ is leading efforts to improve air quality by offering financial and technical assistance that promotes retrofitting and other techniques to reduce the adverse emission impact of diesel but SB 1008B uses state dollars wisely to invest in retrofitting the school bus diesel fleets first with the VW settlement funding.

AFSCME urges your support of SB 1008B.

Respectfully,

Joe Baessler, Political Director