



Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility supports HB 4003

Chairman Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

I am Dr. Andy Harris, a member of the Board of Directors of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

**Diesel emissions are killers**, including lung and bladder cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Diesel emissions increase the incidence of ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, and decrease IQ and memory in children. Older people have higher rates of dementia and Parkinson's Disease when exposed to diesel pollution.

Black Carbon from diesel emissions can cause and exacerbate asthma in children and adults, and increases the severity of emphysema, COPD and pneumonia. Oregon has one of the nation's five highest asthma rates, afflicting more than 300,000 adults and 83,000 children, according to an Oregon Health Authority report.

Diesel engines emit eight times more Black Carbon than gasoline powered engines. In many neighborhoods, average diesel pollution levels exceed state health benchmarks by 20x or more. About 90% of Oregonians today live where diesel exhaust exceeds health benchmarks.

Diesel pollution is a serious environmental justice issue and is at highest concentration in neighborhoods with more low-income and people-of-color residents. In Multnomah County, census tracts with higher than average Black/African American, Asian/ Pacific Islander and/or Latino residents have two to three times more exposure to diesel particulate matter than census tracts with 90% or more non-Latino white populations.

The toll on the health and productivity of Oregonians from diesel exhaust is estimated to be \$3.5 billion each year.

### **It doesn't have to be this way.**

Oregon can dramatically reduce toxic diesel pollution by phasing in newer diesel engines manufactured since 2007, which run as much as 95% cleaner.

**House Bill 4003** requires that medium-duty and heavy-duty diesel trucks cannot be replaced with diesel trucks from 2006 or older. By 2029 all diesel trucks must have 2007 or newer engines.

HB 4003 applies to highway and non-road diesel engines, except for farm vehicles.

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The \$72.9 million settlement with Volkswagen gives Oregon an opportunity to retrofit diesel school buses and to offer loans to small businesses to help them convert to newer, cleaner diesel engines.

Oregon has lagged behind the states of Washington and California and has become a dumping ground for old, inefficient, dirty diesel trucks. We need to protect public health by setting a deadline for cleaning up outdated diesel engines.

Oregon PSR urges the committee to pass House Bill 4003. We are submitting to into the record our [factsheet on diesel, particulate matter and public health](#).

Thank you.

Andy Harris, MD  
for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Home address: 3969 N Overlook Blvd, Portland, OR 97227  
Cell: 503-871-2011  
andyharrismd@comcast.net

