From:	Reiley Beth
To:	Koopman Samantha
Subject:	FW: SB 824 - Please clean up Oregon"s dirty air
Date:	Thursday, April 02, 2015 4:47:13 PM

Beth Reiley
503.986.1755

From: Albert Kaufman [mailto:albertkaufman@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 4:47 PM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: SB 824 - Please clean up Oregon's dirty air

Here's my testimony on this bill, thank you.

Oregon's legacy must not be one of dirty air polluted by harmful diesel fumes. I am writing to urge your support for cleaning up Oregon's air. Diesel exhaust is linked to lung cancer, upper respiratory illnesses, allergies, asthma attacks, and death from heart and respiratory disorders. Many of the 40 air toxics that are released when diesel is burned are carcinogenic, and a number of epidemiologic studies link diesel exhaust to low birth weight, premature births, and increased risk of birth defects.

Diesel soot is of particular concern as an asthma trigger, especially for vulnerable populations. Children, who breathe more air pound-for-pound of body weight compared with adults, are especially at risk. According to the Oregon Health Authority, more than 320,000 adults and 67,000 children have asthma, and our asthma burden is higher than the overall United States.

Exposure to diesel exhaust is widespread in Oregon, with diesel particulate matter exceeding health benchmarks in 17 counties. Even in counties where ambient air concentrations meet the Department of Environmental Quality's health benchmarks for diesel, people live and work near concentrated sources of diesel exhaust (e.g., highways and construction sites) and are exposed to unsafe levels.

In addition, reducing diesel pollution can help us in the fight against climate change. "Black carbon" from diesel accelerates warming because the fine particles absorb heat when they are in the air and when they darken snow and ice. They also accelerate glacier melting and can disrupt regional weather patterns.

The diesel pollution problem must be addressed across Oregon. The Oregon Legislature can ensure this happens by:

--Adopting California's diesel regulations, the most protective in the nation (HB 3310)
--Providing financial assistance to retrofit, rebuild or replace older diesel engines, and ensuring these "carrots" are utilized by following them with regulation (SB 824)
--Ensuring that construction equipment used in public works projects is cleaned up over time (SB 824)
--Tightening anti-idling regulations (SB 823)

This legislative session, please support policies that help us clean up Oregon's dirty air.

Thank you for your time.

Albert Kaufman

Tel: 503-358-0029 • albertkaufman@gmail.com •
Albertideation • Portland, Oregon •
http://albertideation.com
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