



For additional information:
Kim Travis, Oregon Solutions: 503-725-9092

ktravis@pdx.edu

<http://www.ORSolutions.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 20, 2006

Press Event: The Oregon Solutions Team North Portland Diesel Emission Reduction Project celebration will begin at 9:30 at the Embassy Suites, Portland International Airport 7900 Northeast 82nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97220

OREGON SOLUTIONS PROJECT FOCUSES ON NORTH PORTLAND

A diverse group of stakeholders is tackling diesel emission issues in North Portland through an Oregon Solutions project designated by Governor Kulongoski. This collaborative group is working to find ways to reduce diesel emissions from heavy on-road, rail, and marine traffic as well as from off-road construction equipment. Diesel emissions contribute to asthma and other health problems experienced by residents in this part of Portland.

Private entities such as fuel providers, trucking companies, and garbage and recycling haulers; public entities such as the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Transportation (ODOT), City of Portland, and Multnomah County health department; and non-profit organizations such as Environmental Justice Action Group, Coalition for a Livable Future, and Oregon Environmental Council are taking part in an effort to promote voluntary actions.

Governor Kulongoski designated this as the Oregon Solutions North Portland Diesel Emissions Reduction Project and appointed respected community leaders Dr. Algie Gatewood, president of Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, and Mr. Carl



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Talton of Portland Family of Funds as co-conveners. The group has met three times and will be celebrating their collaborative efforts on Thursday June 22nd in conjunction with the Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities Coalition "Efficient Diesel" Workshop. The Oregon Solutions Team celebration will begin at 9:30 at the Embassy Suites, Portland International Airport. The event will open with remarks by our co-conveners, private sector representatives, ODOT, DEQ, EJAG and the Governor's Office. After the speeches, participating organizations will have the opportunity to formally sign their commitments outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation. Several trucks and heavy equipment will be site to demonstrate clean technologies.

Group representatives have identified and made early commitments to areas they could pursue within their own organizations to reduce diesel emissions. The Declaration of Cooperation is considered a written agreement that brings forth solutions agreed to by the group. The proposed solutions will focus on voluntary actions that can be achieved without regulatory intervention. It is expected that several coordinated efforts will emerge including the use of cleaner fuels, add-on control devices and idle reduction strategies. The collective effect will be an improvement in local air quality, which should improve the neighbors' health, and reduce the costs and risks of transition for the diesel fleet owners and operators. Government agencies and community groups will support the diesel reduction efforts by securing grant money from federal and state programs and participating in outreach efforts.

The mission of Oregon Solutions (<http://www.orsolutions.org>) is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government, and non-profit organizations. Oregon Solutions integrates and leverages public, private and civic resources for collaborative, community-based sustainability projects. It has become a primary mechanism for engaging state agencies in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors to forge solutions at the community level with demonstrated success in over 30 projects across the state.

For information on the Oregon Solutions signing celebration, contact project staff Kim Travis at 503-725-9092.



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