

Brooke Kavanagh <brookellk@yahoo.com>

To: Chair Helm, Vice Chair Reschke, and Vice Chair Schouten, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

My name is Brooke Kavanagh, and I believe that everyone in Oregon has the right to clean and healthy air. I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 2007 with the addition of strong amendments.

I live in Portland, where diesel pollution is a huge problem. Sometimes you get used to it and it isn't until you leave Portland, breathe actual clean air somewhere else for a while and then come back, that you realize how much you can taste the diesel in the air. It's disgusting and it's lethal and it's hard to escape.

My main modes of transportation are walking and taking TriMet public transit, so I'm exposed to a lot of diesel pollution when I'm waiting for my buses and light rail or when I'm walking down busy streets, and crossing freeway overpasses and bridges. A lot of times you can actually see a big puff of black smoke come out of older diesel trucks and when I do, I think, that's about to go in my lungs.

For the past year I've been living next to a demolition and construction site, so every day there's big trucks and construction equipment running, and the air can get thick with diesel. And knowing how diesel particulates can get right into the bloodstream and cause cancer and heart attacks and lead to premature death, I close windows and doors, stay inside or sometimes leave the house to try to get away from the pollution.

But I know that the people who suffer the worst health impacts from all the diesel pollution are workers who are exposed to diesel equipment all day every day and people whose homes are right next to high traffic areas and children whose schools are right next to freeways, which is the situation for many communities in Portland and Multnomah County –especially low-income communities and communities of color.

I am so grateful that Oregon is finally committed to putting some diesel regulation on the books with HB2007 and making an investment in human health that has for so long been sacrificed in the name of business. But I urge this committee to include strong amendments to HB 2007. Our health cannot wait until 2029 for compliance; please match California's 2023 deadline. Close the loophole on glider trucks. Incorporate a sticker registration program for all engines. Ensure the phase-in schedule prioritizes implementation in the areas of greatest concern.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brooke Kavanagh