



FIRST
UNITARIAN OF
PORTLAND
EST. 1866

Rev. Dr. William Sinkford, Senior Minister
Rev. Thomas Disrud, Associate Minister

**Testimony in support of HB 2007
Submitted by Reverend Bill Sinkford, Senior Minister
March 19, 2019**

Chair Helm, Vice Chair Reschke, Vice Chair Schouten, Members of the Committee,

My name is Reverend Bill Sinkford and I am the Senior Minister at First Unitarian Church of Portland. **I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 2007 with strong amendments.**

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that we are part of the interconnected web of life, and that all people have inherent worth and dignity. It follows that everyone has a right to clean air and clean water, fundamental elements for health and well-being.

We also recognize that the air one breaths is affected by one's proximity to pollution sites. Likewise the groundwater and soil nearer to pollution sites is more contaminated. Diesel pollution is a significant health hazard in Oregon, especially in urban areas near our highways and diesel storage sites, as well as in rural farming and logging areas. The harmful effects of diesel pollution disproportionately impact communities of color, poor and working-class communities due to proximity to highways, industrial areas and worksites where diesel machinery is used.

Through First Unitarian's partnerships with frontline communities – those who most directly experience the negative impacts of environmental degradation – that are working to improve the health and well-being of their constituents, we have learned about the unequal health impact of pollution, as well as the urgent need to develop strong clean diesel engine standards. We support amendments to HB 2007 that would speed the timeline for adoption of standards, close loopholes for various industrial and agricultural machinery, revise contracting guidelines to ensure clean diesel engine compliance, help fund compliance and enforcement measures, and other amendments that will further protect our air, water and health. These amendments will not only improve environmental quality for all Oregonians, they will have a major effect on the health and well-being of those communities that currently are disproportionately impacted by diesel pollution.

HB 2007 is an opportunity for much needed protection of our interconnected web of humanity and environment. On behalf of First Unitarian Portland, I ask you to please adopt strong amendments and to support HB 2007. Thank you for your consideration.