

Phoebe Wayne <phoebewayne@gmail.com>

Dear Oregon House Energy & Environment Committee:

Air quality in Oregon is an important issue to me, and I have concerns about our air that relate to the health of my family. My 3 year old son Merlin was diagnosed with leukemia in September 2017, and died from a spleen infection less than 2 weeks later. He was getting excellent medical care at Randall Children's Hospital. He's the first person in our family to have cancer, and it's completely unexplainable. My husband suffers from asthma. We live in inner southeast Portland, near the interchange of several highways frequented by diesel trucks, as well as near the railroad lines that transport freight with diesel engines. We are raising Merlin's brothers, 8 year old Jasper and newborn Ambrose, and I live in fear that they will suffer illness because of the poor air quality that previous generations have allowed to become the status quo in Oregon.

I'd like to ask that you pass HB2007, with some critical improvements:

Please close the loophole allowing "glider" trucks to operate on Oregon roads. Vehicle operators need to prove that the vehicle meets federal emissions standards for the year of its manufacture. Please direct the DEQ to establish a sticker identification program for construction related equipment so that fleet managers and local governments can help meet emissions standards. Most importantly, HB2007 needs to ensure that the changes it enacts have a deadline of 2023, not 2029. We have already been harming the health of Oregonians for too long, while the trucking industry pockets the profits. You should be legislating for the interests of the next generation, for Jasper, Merlin and Ambrose. Jasper will be voting in 2029! Please allow his brain to develop without the effects of another decade of diesel pollution!

I am pleased about the movement that has taken place in Oregon around the issue of clean air, including the Cleaner Air Oregon program. I'm encouraged that you are considering HB2007. This is an opportunity to demonstrate that our elected officials make public health a priority, even over the generous influence of industry. This is the time to get the older dirty diesel engines off the roads and the job sites in our communities. Get them out of the state, and insist that companies invest in the newer, more efficient diesel trucks and equipment.

Thank you,  
Phoebe Wayne  
2616 SE 16th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97202  
503-505-4512