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Public testimony for SB 2007

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The time is now for the Oregon Legislature to do the right thing and support SB 2007, which will go a long way in protecting the health of Oregonians who for too long have had to pay the price for lax diesel regulations with their own health. Currently, the volume of diesel pollution allowed in Oregon is 100 nanograms per cubic meter, while in California and Washington it's 3.3 nanograms per cubic meter. Oregonians deserve better than this.

I live in SE Portland not far from Brooklyn Yard. As old, outdated semi-trucks travel to and from the container transfer terminal, people in my neighborhood are exposed to large amounts of diesel exhaust. We all know that diesel pollution causes cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, preterm birth, as well as respiratory illness such as asthma. In fact, Oregon ranks among the five worst states for asthma.

My 13-year-old son was diagnosed with asthma when he was 5. My son has had to deal with missed school days, visits to the emergency room, and countless visits to his pediatrician. My son's asthma has also cost our family thousands of dollars in out of pocket expenses for his medical care and has resulted in missed work days for both me and my husband.

When voting on SB 2007, please consider Oregonians who suffer from chronic health conditions, such as my son. It's time that we invest in clean air as California and Washington have.

Oregon can no longer continue to have environmental policies that are a reflection of the interests of industry representatives while dismissing the potential impact pollution is having on the health of Oregon residents. I am asking the Oregon Legislature to support SB 2007, so our state can finally stop being the dumping ground for dirty diesel as other states adopt health based regulations.

Sincerely,

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