



**To:**

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
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**April 2, 2019**

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Schouten, and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) to express our **support for House Bill 2007**, which protects Oregonians and our public health from diesel pollution by implementing restrictions and standards on older diesel vehicles. As a statewide, grassroots organization, we work with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across Oregon to advance social justice and improve the health, well-being, and survival of our communities. We believe that everyone has a right to clean and healthy air.

Many of our members are low-income and working-class immigrants who live in the Jade District of Portland, one of the most diverse census tracts in the State of Oregon with a population comprised of a majority of people of color. It is also the central hot spot of on-road mobile air toxins and diesel emissions.<sup>1</sup>

The Jade District is surrounded by major transportation corridors -- Division Street, 82nd Ave, I-205, Foster and Powell -- that are major sources of pollution, noise, and present safety hazards due to the lack of safe crossings and walkways. The air quality in the area is consistently some of the worst in the region due to the expose of car emissions.

When we see these problems, we can expect that the community that lives in this area will experience health disparities. Data, from Multnomah County's Health Department reports on racial and ethnic health disparities, shows that approximately 9% of Pacific Islander babies are underweight in the County and 8% for Asian babies, a rate that is over 20% higher than white babies. We also see other health disparities from the report:

- Higher rates of asthma
- Higher rates of ear, nose, and throat irritation
- Greater risk of heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and other diseases linked to less-active lifestyles

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<sup>1</sup> The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) study of regional air toxics (Portland Air Toxics Solutions) found that low-income residents and residents of color in outer Southeast Portland are disproportionately exposed to air toxics emissions. From that study, DEQ identified that Asian populations and low-income neighborhoods face a greater risk from on-road mobile emissions.



HB 2007 would take steps to ensure clean air for all Oregonians by introducing a policy that phases out old diesel engines, helping reduce diesel pollution and health risks. We believe this bill could be stronger with additional amendments:

- Shorten the deadline for compliance from 2029 to 2023, matching California's program and halting the addition of old engines to Oregon's roads. We cannot wait until 2029.
- Require compliance with applicable emissions standards for a *vehicle's* model year, rather than the engine's model year, to avoid resale of old engines in new truck bodies.
- Incorporate a sticker registration program for all engines, requiring vehicle operators to visibly display both the year of the cab manufacture and the year of engine manufacture on the side of each cab.
- Ensure the phase-in schedule prioritizes implementation in the areas of greatest concern -- where the most sensitive populations live, where there is the greatest pollution, and where the most people are exposed.

Breathable, clean air means good and healthy environments. Breathable air means our lives are not cut short, and we let our communities face irreversible diseases and hospitalization. The health and wellbeing of our families and our communities cannot afford to wait.

We thank you for your time and consideration, and urge the Committee to support strong amendments to HB 2007 to ensure Asian and Pacific Islander youths and families living in the Jade District, and Oregonians across the state, can live long healthy lives.

Sincerely,  
Ivy Major-McDowall  
Legislative Coordinator  
APANO