



April 24, 2019

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

We are writing to you today in strong support of Senate Bill 411 with the -3 amendments. The State of Oregon has set aggressive targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat climate change. A critical component of that effort is to increase the number of electric vehicles on the road. In recent years, we have seen rapid growth in the development of electric, hydrogen and natural gas powered Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDV's). Electric HDV's weigh more than conventional HDV's due to their batteries. Senate Bill 411-3 would take the necessary step of increasing the gross vehicle weight limit for electric HDV's from 80,000 to 82,000 pounds in order to ensure that electric trucks are a viable freight option.

Under the current weight limit, businesses are disincentivized from taking advantage of this important technology. Having to compensate for an extra 2,000 pounds on each truck reduces the amount of goods they are able to carry in one trip, forcing them to take more trips which increases congestion and consequently pollution.

According to the latest research, diesel engines are responsible for 49% of smog-forming pollutants caused by transportation, and heavier vehicles are the largest source of these emissions. Additionally, diesel particulates are a known carcinogen and, as of 2014, 19 counties in Oregon exceeded the benchmark for diesel particulates in the air.

Taking this simple step will reduce the number of diesel trucks on our roads, improve public health and support the State of Oregon's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.