

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, and Members,

I urge you to support HB 2814 to regulate indirect sources of diesel pollution. Indirect sources of diesel pollution are a greater source of diesel pollution than mobile sources. This bill provides the path to significantly reduce the devastating health, climate and environmental justice impacts of diesel pollution.

My perspective is as a physician who cared for an underserved population with significant barriers to care. Almost all were low income and the majority were ethnic minorities. We know that air pollution disproportionately impacts low income communities and communities of color, contributes to climate change and is the biggest environmental risk for early death.

OPSR has submitted testimony on the serious adverse health impacts of diesel pollution, climate change, including black carbon. I want to emphasize that diesel particulate matter puts small particles into our air, PM < 2.5. These tiny particles not only harm our lungs but may carry other toxins such as carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or viruses (COVID-19) into our respiratory tract. Research at Harvard University shows a strong relationship between exposure to air pollution and mortality from COVID-19. For every slight increase in the pollutant PM2.5 there is an 8% increase in the death rate from COVID-19, and communities of color are more likely to be exposed to this pollutant long term.

Please support this important bill. Thank you.

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