

Oregon House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Environment
HB 2814 Healthy Communities for All Bill
March 2, 2021
Robert Collin

Good morning Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Helm, Vice Chair Smith and Committee Members – Hernandez, Moore-Green, Owens, and Pham.

My name is Robert W Collin. I am testifying in support of House Bills **2814** in my personal capacity, not as Vice Chair of the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force. (EJTF)

I am a scholar in law, planning and community organization; and certified as an EJ expert witness in Federal District court. I am a founding member and current vice chair of the (11 year old) EJTF. EJTF holds at least 4 meetings a year and reviews the annual reports of natural resource agencies for an annual report to the Governor. (On – line)

Indirect sources as Pollution in Oregon

Indirect sources of emissions have been a large EJ issue in Oregon for years. Via years of EJTF meetings, the required natural resource agency EJ reports online, EJ law course coverage and many other community venues the hazards of indirect diesel emissions to the African American community in Portland were and are well documented. Today, BIPOC communities in Portland experience air pollution 20 times higher than state health standards. Any way the numbers are examined they are not good, and they are not getting better. In Portland, well organized and hard working grass roots community groups have been advocating for cleaners air have

documented the air they breathe. They, and Oregon, needs the state to step in and begin the process of promulgating rules for control of indirect emissions, especially diesel.

Emission Sources

Direct sources are those are responsible for their emissions, usually in the form of a permit. Direct sources often self-report their emissions. Not all emissions from direct sources are counted. Fugitive emissions, emissions beneath the regulatory threshold, accidental emissions, de minimus and other categories of emissions are not counted. Our current sources permitting structure has leaks. Indirect sources are unpermitted and uncontrolled.

“Indirect sources” really aren’t so indirect in terms of demonstratable and near- term public health impacts. They directly and negatively affect people’s lives, community wealth formation, and regional quality of life. They can bio accumulate and harm residents, vulnerable populations, and the environment. Diesel emissions are a part of toxic air emissions in Oregon, and a big part of indirect emissions. Not all indirect emissions can be controlled. Last summer’s wildfires created a 2.5 PM count of over 600, a world high for days. Diesel emissions can be controlled and doing so will lower the risks of degraded public health, increase chances for community development, and improve the quality of life. Given the types of climate change impacts coming to Oregon, like wildfires, it is especially important for the EQC to have the authority to promulgate rules for indirect sources as a way to mitigate climate change impacts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Collin

