

To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy. and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

As a physician, I strongly oppose HB 3022, a bill that would prevent DEQ or EQC from limiting motor vehicle emissions.

We have made great strides in the US over recent decades by reducing auto and truck tailpipe pollutants. This has prevented huge losses due to mortality and morbidity from diseases caused by toxic air. Many US citizens are alive today due to these regulations. But progress should not stop there. We still have too many people suffering from chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD), lung cancers and other diseases attributed to air pollution. In Oregon, 6% of adults have COPD and that prevalence has not decreased in the last 6 years.

<https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/COPD/state/OR>

In addition, according to the World Health Organization, “climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.” Oregon has been a leader in addressing this threat, in large part because of governmental action to reduce vehicle emissions. Passage of HB 3022 poses a severe risk to these measures. With the climate crisis worsening steadily and with an impending “tipping point” when irreversible cascades of ecologic damage will occur, we all cannot afford any back-sliding. It is essential to maintain the power of DEQ and EQC to act in favor of clean air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

As a grandfather, I am terrified about the worsened habitat that we are passing on to our offspring. Unless we continue on a route to electrifying our transportation sector while decarbonizing our electric generation systems, we are hastening a much worse future for our grandchildren. As responsible adults, we should devote all our efforts to ensuring the best possible life for them. If you agree, then I urge you to vote against HB 3022.

My deep thanks for your public service and for reading this testimony.

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