

Submitter: Sophia Spehar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2396

My name is Sophia Spehar and I am a constituent who lives in Northwest Portland. I am a student of the Environmental Justice class at Lincoln High School.

I am writing in support of HB2396, a bill to direct Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission to develop rules for indirect sources of diesel pm emissions. The bill pushes for the state to write rules to control the high concentrations of dangerous air contaminants, especially Diesel particulate matter, which come from mobile emissions associated with the operation of indirect sources which are otherwise unregulated. These indirect sources include construction, distribution centers, railyards, and ports.

Climate change is the greatest threat to humanity today, and one of the greatest contributors to climate change is fossil fuels. Specifically, Multnomah County is in the worst 2% of counties nationwide for diesel pollution, and the majority of pollution in our county comes from construction vehicles, ships, and rail. Diesel particles are especially dangerous because of how small they are. A single particle of diesel is 100 times smaller than the width of a human hair, meaning that it can work its way through the lungs and go directly into the bloodstream, raising the risks of serious health conditions. Children are more susceptible to pollution, as they breathe at higher rates than adults. Additionally, diesel is an issue of racial justice as BIPOC communities are exposed to 2-3 times more diesel than other populations, due to the fact that industrial polluters are often sited near BIPOC neighborhoods.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB2396 to direct the EQC to develop rules for indirect sources of diesel emissions. With your support, we can significantly decrease diesel emissions in Multnomah County and fight for climate justice, racial justice, and the health of every constituent in the area. The future of many generations of the Pacific Northwest is in the hands of elected officials like you. Please make a difference.

Sincerely,
Sophia Spehar