



February 15, 2023

Chairwoman Pam Marsh
Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3158

Dear Chairwoman Marsh and members of the Committee,

Please accept this comment regarding HB 3158 and support for the Clean Diesel Engine Fund. Some years ago, Vigor's Swan Island shipyard and fabrication facility entered into a good neighbor agreement with a specific goal of reducing the impact of diesel emissions from our operations. Though not perfect, we have successfully addressed equipment and processes, such as the use of shore power for ships otherwise burning diesel fuel while parked at our facility.

This is an example of the type of collaborative work businesses can engage in with community partners to positively impact health and environmental outcomes. These actions, however, require long-term strategic outlooks and often significant upfront investment. This can be particularly true when dealing with diesel equipment and transportation.

For this reason, Vigor supports the continued funding and increased limits on the use of the Clean Diesel Engine Fund. Though we are keenly aware of the tax burden faced by many in Oregon today, we understand the need to fund programs which address air pollution and believe revenue use proposed in this legislation is correctly directed to a practical solution. Medium and heavy duty trucks, much like industrial processes, remain difficult and expensive to electrify, leaving conversions and retrofits as practical, effective options to reduce diesel emissions.

While the fund may not necessarily support Vigor's operations, the benefits of reduced diesel emissions are felt by all in our community and lead to improved health outcomes for our employees and their children, as well as the community at large. Additionally, addressing diesel emissions from indirect sources helps ensure we are attacking the entire spectrum of emissions instead of only in specific sectors, while likely having co-benefits for climate change-causing emissions.

Central to Vigor's values of Truth, Responsibility, Evolution, and Love is a belief that we must good stewards of our environment and a positive force for good. We believe good, family-wage industrial jobs can coexist with a clean, safe environment and we work each day to be an example of it. Policies which support transitions to cleaner technology, while ensuring businesses can afford to be

part of the solution, benefit us all. Please continue with efforts to strengthen Oregon's economy as part of your efforts to create a clean, safe environment for all who live here.

Sincerely,

Benton Strong
Senior Manager, Public Affairs
Vigor