

3.23.2023

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

Written Testimony in Support of HB2713 – Right to Electrify

Many cities and jurisdictions across our state want to take bolder action to accelerate our transition away from polluting fossil fuel based energy. The support by multiple cities and counties for other efforts in this vein such as the Reach Code Bill shows that these local governments want to act.

Electrification of our buildings is an obvious beneficial action that would provide safer, healthier and less carbon polluting homes. This would also help reduce ambient air pollution to give Oregonians cleaner air to breathe.

While many air pollutants are decreasing in Oregon, the DEQ reports that NOX pollution has remained fairly constant. Burning natural gas in homes and buildings is a large contributor to NOX pollution which increases risk of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. California is beginning to regulate the sale of gas appliances specifically to deal with ambient NOX pollution.

Nitrogen Dioxide Trends

The Figure below shows the NO₂ trends in comparison to the federal standard.

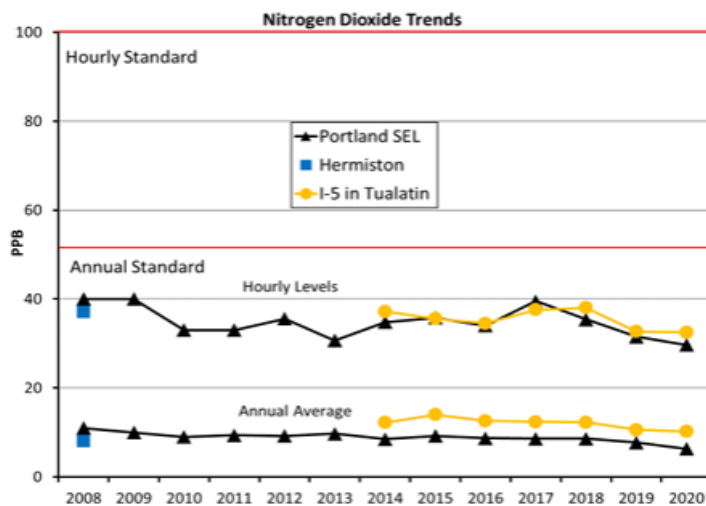


Figure 85. Oregon nitrogen dioxide one hour and annual average trends.

From DEQ Oregon Air Quality Monitoring Annual Report: 2020

As we are trying to reduce carbon emissions in Oregon, it also makes sense to electrify our buildings as multiple studies researching that topic have shown. Please support this bill which would eliminate the fear of legal battles financed by the fossil fuel industry when cities and counties want to take sensible actions to promote electrification in their communities.

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