

Testimony on HB3119 (Delaying implementation of Advanced Clean Truck rule) OPPOSED

My name is Bonnie New, and I live in Hood River, Oregon. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

I am here to voice and explain my strong opposition to HB 3119 and SB 509. I urge you to put clean air and public health first in considering these bills.

My expertise is human health. I'm a retired emergency room doctor. I've seen and treated first-hand many of the acute and chronic effects of air pollution. I also have a degree in public health, specializing in the human health effects of chemical exposures. I started the advocacy group Doctors for Clean Air 35 years ago, when physicians were just starting to understand the severity of problems caused by air contaminants.

Diesel engines emit a complex mixture of air pollutants, including both gaseous and solid material. The solid material is called diesel particulate matter (DPM), and hundreds of clinical studies show serious human health problem from breathing it.

First, it causes lung cancer. DPM is classified as "carcinogenic to humans." Then there are the non-cancer health effects, which are both more numerous and affect far more people -

- cardiovascular and respiratory hospitalizations,
- premature death,
- exacerbation of asthma,
- new onset of asthma, and
- decreased lung function in children.

Those most vulnerable to the non-cancer health effects are children and the elderly.

It appears that this proposed delay in implementation of the Advanced Clean Truck rule is driven by industrial special interests. It's easy to understand why they do this – it makes them more money. But the concept of enriching profit-seeking entities on the backs (and lungs and hearts and children) of Oregonians is shameful and unacceptable.

Corporate interests should not make their profits by hurting the residents of this state. And the good news is they don't have to. Cleaner, more affordable technologies are available and in use. Many manufacturers already meet the Advanced Clean Truck standards because of market demand. Electric trucks are increasingly cost-competitive.

Any delay in implementing the Advanced Clean Truck rule will mean more toxic diesel emissions in our air, more sick people, more premature deaths, more kids who can't play because of their asthma. Who wants to tell them you did that on purpose?

I urge you in the strongest possible way to say NO to HB 3119 and SB 509.

Thank you.

*Submitted by Bonnie New, MD, MPH
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