

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Kahler and I work for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. We are an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates from across the state working to address the gravest threats to health and survival.

Oregon PSR is testifying today to oppose HB 3119 which would delay the implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule in Oregon by two years. As elected officials your constituents have put their trust in you to act in their best interest. HB 3119 is in direct conflict with that interest particularly as it pertains to the health of individuals and their communities. A two year delay in the ACT rule will cause devastating impacts to the health of Oregonians.

Studies have shown that diesel emissions increase the incidences of lung and bladder cancer and contribute to increased risk of heart attacks, arrhythmias and several other cardiac diseases. They contribute to a number of neurodevelopmental disorders in children including ADHD and decreased memory and language abilities, while older adults face higher rates of dementia and Parkinson's Disease. Black Carbon from diesel emissions exacerbates asthma in children and increases the severity of emphysema, COPD and pneumonia. Black Carbon increases miscarriages, low birth weight in babies, infertility and other health concerns related to pregnancy. About 90% of Oregonians today live where diesel exhaust exceeds health benchmarks.

In contrast, when diesel emissions are reduced we see a number of positive health outcomes including significant decreases in heart attacks and fewer new cases of heart failure, decreases in pulmonary disease and lung cancer mortality. It has been estimated that by 2030 if most of the heavy duty trucks are operating with lower emitting engines, 8,300 premature deaths, more than 9,500 hospitalizations and 1.5 million work days lost per year would be avoided. In order to save all of these lives you must act now and oppose HB 3119. With each year that we do not take action, we lose lives that could have been spared and allow for the health of Oregonians to suffer unnecessarily.

If you, the members of this committee, are truly committed to the health and well being of your constituents, you must act in ways that align with your commitment. I am asking you today to prioritize the health and safety of Oregonians and oppose HB 3119 to maintain the Advanced Clean Trucks rule.

Thank you for your time and consideration.