

Submitter: Max Farbman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

Dear Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3119, which seeks to delay the implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations in Oregon until January 1, 2027. I firmly believe that postponing these critical regulations will have detrimental effects on public health and the environment.

Health Impacts of Diesel Emissions

Diesel exhaust is a significant contributor to air pollution and poses serious health risks. Exposure to diesel emissions has been linked to respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and an increased risk of cancer. In Oregon, diesel-powered vehicles, though comprising only 6% of the vehicles on the road, are responsible for 60 to 70% of particulate emissions from all vehicles. Notably, diesel exhaust is considered 100 times more toxic than gasoline exhaust.

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Economic Burden

The health impacts of diesel pollution also carry a substantial economic burden. In Oregon alone, the direct and indirect public health and environmental impacts of exposure to diesel exhaust could be valued up to \$3.5 billion per year.

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Wildfires and Uncontrollable Pollution

Recent years have seen an increase in wildfires in Oregon, contributing to significant air pollution that is beyond our immediate control. This exacerbates the existing pollution levels and underscores the importance of mitigating controllable sources of pollution, such as diesel emissions. By enforcing stricter diesel emission regulations, we can reduce the cumulative impact of air pollution on our communities.

Industry Misinformation

It is concerning that some industry representatives have disseminated misinformation suggesting that stricter diesel regulations are unnecessary or economically detrimental. However, the long-term health benefits and potential economic savings

from reduced healthcare costs and improved public health far outweigh the short-term challenges of implementing these regulations.

Conclusion

Delaying the implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations, as proposed in HB 3119, would be a step backward in our efforts to protect public health and the environment. I urge you to consider the substantial evidence of the harmful effects of diesel emissions and the pressing need to address controllable sources of air pollution, especially in light of increasing pollution from wildfires. Implementing these regulations without delay is crucial for the well-being of all Oregonians.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Max