

TINA KOTEK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NE PORTLAND



Testimony in Support of House Bill 4107
House Committee on Energy and Environment

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek
February 6, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4107, with the -1 amendment. This bill is designed to help improve air quality in some of areas of the state by extending the existing Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund to certain private businesses in areas with heavy emissions.

In 2013, the Legislature passed SB 583, establishing the fund and making the fund available to public entities. The fund is designed to help finance the conversion or purchase of alternative fuel vehicles. Encouraging the shift to more vehicles with cleaner engines on our roads is important for retaining energy dollars in Oregon, creating jobs, and lowering greenhouse gases and other air pollution.

To prioritize the limited resources in the fund, the bill expands access to the fund to private entities based in regions that must already participate in the State Vehicle Inspection Program (currently Portland and Medford). HB 4107 also prohibits companies that require truck drivers to work as independent contractors from accessing the fund. These two limitations will help keep the fund solvent and target companies in areas with the most need for emissions reductions.

The -1 amendment does two additional things: First, it allows the Department of Energy to meet potential demand for loans by giving the department the ability to charge a loan origination fee. Second, to maximize the fund's potential, it extends the time limit for auctioning tax credits that finance the program.

Poor air quality is a significant problem in my district, where residential communities abut heavy industrial areas and a number of transit and distribution hubs. By taking this simple and targeted action this year, we can provide a tool to help businesses upgrade their fleets and reduce air pollution. I urge your "aye" support.

Thank you.