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Testimony in Support of House Bill 4107A  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek  
February 19, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4107A. This bill is designed to help improve air quality in some 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 4107A 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.

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.