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**Written Testimony to the House Energy & Environment Committee
on HB 2269**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council is pleased to voice our support for HB 2269.

Specifically, we believe it is critical that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) maintain a fee schedule that is sufficient to cover reasonable costs—including levels of staffing necessary to successfully administer the permit program, meet industry needs and expectations, and protect the health of Oregonians.

At this point in time increased fees are necessary to cover all reasonable direct and indirect costs of implementing the federal operating permit program.

Increased fees are in the best interest of taxpayers and families—particularly those living next to permitted facilities that routinely emit air pollution.

OEC also supports changes to the Clean Diesel Engine Fund that make it possible to receive moneys pursuant to the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement.

However, without diesel engine emissions standards in place the benefits of VW settlement money for Oregon's kids and families will be diminished.

As DEQ has found from 15 years of managing an “incentive only” clean diesel program, many of the most polluting diesel engines in Oregon will not be cleaned up without a regulatory requirement in place.

Oregonians across the state deserve clean air. We urge the legislature to take real action to address the unprecedented public outcry for cleaner air in Oregon by specifically regulating toxic air pollution from older diesel engines that is scientifically linked to cancer and asthma, among other health problems.

Thank you for your consideration.