



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner

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To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County Commissioner
Date: March 27th, 2017
Re: Support for HB 2269

Dear Chair Helm and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

Last winter, our community was rocked by the news that harmful toxics were being spewed into our air at alarming rates. The outrage was fully warranted. Words like Bullseye Glass, hexavalent chromium, Uroboros Glass, selenium, and lead poisoning were suddenly household words. The fear and anger in our neighborhoods was palpable. Hundreds of people turned out to community meetings to voice their frustration, concerns and alarm about the lack of health-based air quality standards and regulations.

The response to this discovery both in the metro region and across the state is Governor Kate Brown's Cleaner Air Oregon initiative, which shows promise in helping to curb industrial air toxics and create health-based air quality standards. But in order for that initiative to be successful, the financial structure established in HB 2269 must be passed.

The funding and fee structure established in HB 2269 is vital for ensuring that the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative has the resources necessary to monitor and ensure compliance with health-based standards. Without HB 2269, all of the hard work that the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative has done over the last year may be for naught.


HB 2269 also contains key provisions which will allow the State of Oregon to accept the money that has been awarded from the Volkswagen diesel settlement. Diesel-powered vehicles and equipment are a small portion of the vehicles on the road (six percent in Oregon), but their contribution to air pollution is big: pumping out up to 66 percent of particulate emissions from the transportation sector overall. One study found that diesel exhaust is 100 times more toxic than gasoline exhaust.

Diesel particulates trigger asthma, cause cancer, raise the risk of heart attack and stroke and can lead to low-weight and pre-term births. We pay dearly for that exposure. The annual health care toll includes 460 premature deaths; 145 heart attacks; and 25,910 work loss days. The financial impact of those health issues in Oregon exceeds \$3 billion annually.

HB 2269 will ensure that the money the state receives from the settlement goes towards financing the retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of outdated, dirty diesel engines,

HB 2269 is an important bill. It will ensure that the Cleaner Air Oregon initiative has the required funding stream to ensure it can accomplish its mission, as well as establish the method for accepting and disbursing money received from the Volkswagen settlement. I urge you to support HB 2269.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner
District 3, Southeast and East Portland