

Dear Senate Rules Committee,

I am contacting you as the Community & Environmental Engagement Manager for the [NE Coalition of Neighborhoods](#). We serve the neighborhoods of inner N/NE Portland, where I grew up since 1978.

Today I am reaching out to you as many of our residents from NE Portland have expressed concern for the local air quality and we need Oregon to act strong.

For the precautionary steps taken to address this issue today will reap savings in health costs tomorrow. We have learned much from the recent progress of this air quality conversation and have even published our own report on this issue in our district alone. [Page 4 of our Air Toxics report](#) demonstrates the need our district has for stronger policies that protect our airsheds, as we host a fair share of unfiltered trucks.

With that, I urge you to create a firm timeline for retiring or retrofitting the dirtiest diesel engines currently in use. And we must take measures to ensure that Oregon does not inherit California's problem.

As an employee who works at a school site, I think an amendment that allows local governments to create "no idle" zones near schools, hospitals, care centers and day care centers, will go a long way to protect vulnerable populations,
We thank you for supporting the school bus statute (ORS 468A.796) to allow retrofits to continue past the 2017 deadline, and allowing them to be funded by the VW settlement until 2025. Please stay there with that action and push even further!

Thank you,

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Jessica Rojas
Community and Environmental Engagement Manager

[Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods \(NECN\)](#)

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