



February 8, 2018

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
Oregon Legislature

Re: House Bill 4003

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. We support House Bill 4003, an urgently needed measure to address the detrimental environmental and public health impacts of pollution caused by dirty diesel engines.

We believe that all Oregonians have the right to breathe clean air.

Unfortunately, despite decades of improvements to our air quality, many Oregonians continue to breathe unhealthy air, caused in large part by toxic diesel exhaust. In fact, [according to the Environmental Protection Agency](#), about 90% of Oregonians live where diesel exhaust exceeds health benchmarks. This means 9 out of 10 Oregonians are breathing air that can elevate their risk of asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, stroke and cancer. Diesel exhaust also contributes to climate change, since diesel soot is a [black carbon](#).

Yet Oregon continues to allow old, dirty diesel engines to pollute across the state, spewing up to 95% more pollution than newer, cleaner engines. This is, in part, because Oregon has become a dumping ground for dirty diesel engines, since we have failed to mitigate this problem as quickly as neighboring states.

Fortunately, the solution is simple: we have to phase out dirty diesel engines as quickly as possible.

Environment Oregon supports House Bill 4003 because it provides a clear plan and timeline for how Oregon can phase out dirty diesel engines, which will protect public health and our climate. When it passes, we can all breathe a little easier.

Thank you for your continued attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director, Environment Oregon