



House Committee on Health Care
HB 4003 Public Hearing
Friday, February 9, 2018

Mary Peveto, President, Neighbors for Clean Air

A non-profit which seeks to protect the health of all Oregonians by reducing toxic air pollution.

To: Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of HB 4003.

Since 2001, the State of Oregon has recognized the harm that exhaust from older diesel engines poses to the health of all of us who live in Oregon and, as a result, has engaged in efforts to promote the turnover to readily available cleaner diesel engine technology.

In 2007, when a new national diesel engine standard was required that achieved an incredible 95% reduction in harmful pollution, Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission implemented in the state's administrative rules a mandate to reduce excess lifetime cancer risk from diesel exhaust exposure in Oregon to no more than one in a million by 2017.

Unfortunately, not only have we not come close to that goal, there is evidence, that due to our neighboring states' more aggressive actions, Oregon has become an open market for dirty diesel engines no longer permitted to operate in California.

The task to address this persistent health threat is all the more urgent because diesel engine emissions are up to 3 times higher in communities with the highest percentages of low income and people of color, populations that have been historically underrepresented in decision making and in the benefits of environmental regulations in our state, while paying the highest cost in health problems related to exposure.

HB4003, and its provision to address the higher concentration of diesel emissions in certain communities through the indirect source rule is an innovative way to reduce inequities and focus on the highest priorities. Neighbors for Clean Air strongly supports the effort of the legislators who have continued to address this pressing problem.

Thank you.