

Aaron Brown <aaronmbrown503@gmail.com>

Greetings, Chair Helm, Vice Chair Reschke, Vice Chair Schouten, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aaron Brown and I live in the St Johns neighborhood of North Portland. I've been working with a number of community groups to oppose the expansion of the Rose Quarter Freeway in the backyard of Harriet Tubman Middle School. While undertaking this campaign, I have had the privilege to meet numerous families, teachers, and students at Tubman. It's unconscionable to me that the lack of diesel regulations in the state of Oregon has led to this amazing, resilient community to have to weather the horrifying consequences of these dirty particulates in the air. No one should \*ever\* have to bring their middle school to testify at a public hearing that they would prefer not to be subjected to higher rates of asthma, heart disease, and diabetes. Even a pessimistic cynic such as myself was astonished to read breadth of the academic literature on the impacts that air pollution from trucks and diesel can have on children's health and academic achievement. The corporeal and material impacts that this legislation could provide to a generation of Oregonians is profound, and if our state is actually committed to our ostensible values of racial equity, conservation, environmental stewardship and good governance, it is imperative that a strong, uncompromising piece of legislation be passed to work to swiftly clean up the air in our communities. It's unacceptable that the trucking lobby is directly profiting from the legislative inaction that allows wealthy companies to continue to pollute the air that Oregon's youth breathe everyday. The racial justice components of this legislation are particularly important - it's our moral responsibility to welcome all into Tom McCall's garden of eden, and that requires prioritizing frontline communities who have been priced into neighborhoods near freeways and are the most at threat to this public health epidemic.

I urge you to support the work of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance and their partner organizations and please swiftly move forward with passage of HB 2007. Thank you for your time.

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