

Ellen Mickle <mickle.ellen@gmail.com>

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chair Reschke, Vice Chair Schouten and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ellen Mickle and I am a resident of Portland OR. I am writing to ask you to include strong amendments and support HB 2007.

I firmly believe everyone has a right to breathe clean and healthy air, though sadly an estimated 92% of the world's population lives in places that fail to meet WHO standards for air quality. I spend 10 hours a week bike commuting through Portland, mostly in parts of the city where lots of construction is happening, and I can feel the air is not good to breathe. I work at a wholesaler of fair trade food products, which means our business runs on diesel trucks, so I have a professional interest in this as well.

We should be able to do this. We are a state with a reputation for being green, and the Portland Metro area is awash in money right now with all the people and businesses moving here, yet somehow California is the only state with a law to decommission pre-2007 standards, dirty diesel engines. We also should feel an added incentive because our physical geography's doing us no favors in terms of holding in the polluted air.

Finally, and most importantly, there is a racial equity element as well. The year I was born (1987) the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice published a report confirming what many have always known -- that race is the #1 indicator of exposure to environmental toxins. Minorities will be the majority (for children) in this country by next year, 2020. Even if you put aside all the obvious and human reasons of why a state should enact a law to counteract a public health issue that's very inequitably impacting the population, if you envision a future where younger generations will be able to pay your social security, you need to support this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Mickle