



March 18, 2019

Dear Rep. Ken Helm, Chair, and members of the  
House Committee on Energy and Environment:

My name is Merlyn Hough, Director of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) in Lane County, Oregon. I am writing you today in support of HB2007 which would direct the Environmental Quality Commission to establish programs to reduce diesel emissions in Oregon.

On-road diesel vehicles and diesel-powered construction equipment are major sources of air pollution in Lane County and many other counties of Oregon. Diesel engines are significant contributors to:

- air toxics (especially diesel particulate matter, but also other attached carcinogens);
- particulate matter (specifically the PM2.5 size range which is of greater health concern);
- ozone (as a result of ozone-causing NOx emissions); and
- greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) contributing to climate change.

The National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) indicates that diesel particulate matter (DPM) concentrations in Lane County are three times the health benchmarks established by the State of Oregon; concentrations in some other Oregon counties are even higher.

Emission control technology is available to dramatically reduce diesel emissions, but older diesel trucks, buses and construction equipment stay in use for many years. Modernized fleets and equipment are needed to more rapidly reduce emissions and protect public health.

We understand that amendments are expected in HB2007 in the coming weeks. A comprehensive diesel emission reduction program should include:

- Investments in newer/cleaner school and transit buses;
- Incentives to retire older diesel engines;
- Clean construction standards for engines used for state-funded projects;
- Improved inventories and registration of construction and other non-road engines.

This is the time to seriously address diesel emissions. Effective technologies are readily available, even super-clean electric alternatives in many cases, and the potential health benefits are substantial.

Thank you for this opportunity for comment. Please let me know if the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency can be of further assistance as you proceed.

Sincerely,

Merlyn L. Hough, LRAPA Director

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