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### **HB 2007 Diesel Bill Testimony**

Many people believe that Oregon is so green and healthy, which is what I believe until I learned about just how bad our air quality can be. I live in Multnomah County, one of the worst countries in the nation for exposure to airborne diesel exhaust. My high school is literally across the street from the 405. Countless diesel engine trucks fly past my school everyday. I can only imagine the amount of chemicals that I am breathing each day, polluting my lungs. Exposure to diesel engine exhaust can lead to cancer, increased risk of heart attack, stroke, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and preterm births. There are 400 premature deaths annually because of diesel pollution. What about all the children who live in Multnomah County? Children are especially at risk because their lungs are still developing; they breathe 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults do. Imagine all the children that could be affected by something that could be solved. We need to phase out old, dirty, diesel engines and set rules and regulations regarding the use of trucks and construction equipment. Some of these regulations should include putting an expiration date on in-use dirty diesel engines, ban the sale of pre-2010 on-road heavy duty trucks, and to establish a statewide non-road diesel engine registration program that would provide information on engine age, horsepower, and emissions tier. Beyond just banning diesel engines, fees should be put in place in efforts to raise revenue for dirty diesel engine retrofits. In addition, states should adopt Clean Air Construction Standards. Clean Air Construction Standards are a common set of procurement requirements that apply to city and county contracts. These standards would require the phase-in of cleaner equipment on publicly financed projects. If HB 2007 were to be passed, then diesel engine emission standards would be put in place to help improve air quality. Even though this isn't a huge solution to something like climate change, it's a step in the right direction, a way to improve the livelihoods of so many Oregonians.

