

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am hopeful that HB 2007, once amended, will be the vehicle to achieve substantial reductions in diesel pollution in our state. It's been a long time coming! My name is Tori Cole, and I'm the program director and attorney with Neighbors for Clean Air.

I am here today to talk to you about youth. Our organization has always worked with parents and youth, whose lungs are still developing and are thus more vulnerable to pollution. Children breathe on average 50% more air per pound of body weight than adult. At Tubman Elementary School, air quality is already so bad that experts have recommended "student outdoor activities be limited, especially during high traffic periods." Many think this is an anomaly, but the truth is that many of our schools are impacted by unsafe air, too close to major trafficked roads.

Diesel monitoring by Portland State University atmospheric chemist Linda George indicates that it isn't just interstates--like I-5 and I-205, which Tubman and Lent Elementary among others flank--we need to be concerned about. State highways and arteries like Powell Blvd, 82nd Ave and Columbia Blvd showed similar levels of diesel particulate, especially for developing lungs. Children exposed to diesel emissions can suffer lifelong impacts, including smaller lungs, asthma, delayed development, neurodevelopmental disorders like Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety and depression.

Taking other highly trafficked roads into consideration, according to Upstream Research, 78 schools in the Portland metro area are less than 100 meters from major roads. This is a risk we are all allowing our children to face. All of us in the Portland Metro area is impacted at some level, but children in school 8 hours a day are especially impacted. Uproar from parents and teachers at Tubman has secured a \$10 million HVAC system to ensure limited harmful particulate gets inside, but what about the other 77 schools, just in Portland Metro? Diesel particulate is so small that it evades many filters, meaning indoor air isn't much safer than outdoor. Keeping kids inside isn't enough.

I have spoken to countless parents and teachers about the impacts of this pollution. At Lent Elementary, parents are worried about their kids staying sick longer than normal, and having breathing problems. In 2017, a friend tearfully stood in front of legislators describing her two year old's 10+ ER visits in the past year for reactive airway disorder (a precursor to asthma). She has since moved her family out of Portland and cites her child's health as the reason. That's a choice she shouldn't have had to make.

It's not just our kids who are at risk. I'm sure you'll hear more about the general health risks, but it's worth noting specifically that railroad, dock, trucking, and bus garage workers with high levels of diesel exhaust exposure over many years consistently demonstrate a 20-50% increase in the risk of lung cancer or death. This is a public health emergency. Please consider the amendments suggested by the Oregon Just Transition Alliance. We need action now, not in 2029.