

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

My name is Dr. Ann Turner. I work for more than 20 years at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, serving migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others with barriers to care in Washington and Yamhill Counties.

Everyone deserves the right to clean and healthy air, yet those who are most vulnerable in our communities often breathe the unhealthiest air. They live closer to major roadways, railways and industrial sites. Although the reasons for this are multifactorial, one of those reasons should not be breathing air with high levels of diesel emissions. Diesel emissions contain fine particulate matter which is known to exacerbate asthma and COPD and is a cause of lung cancer, heart disease, birth defects, and neurodevelopmental problems.

It is urgent that we pass a strong bill that protects all Oregonians from diesel pollution. HB 2007 can be that bill but must be strengthened. Time is of the essence. **We must match California's deadline of 2023. 2029 is too late.**

We cannot allow old engines to be put into newer vehicles. Oregon should not be the dumping ground for old and polluting diesel engines. We need to require vehicle owners or operators to have a sticker on the cab showing both the date the cab was manufactured as well as the engine.

When public improvement projects are funded by \$20 million dollars or more in state bonds, these projects must be done by vehicles and equipment that are powered by clean diesel engines. However, the EQC must consider how to make sure that businesses owned by minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans are not put at a disadvantage. This can be done by using the VW Settlement Funds to replace diesel engines older than 2009, both on-road vehicles and construction equipment, giving preference to disadvantaged businesses and to those projects that benefit vulnerable populations and areas with the highest levels of diesel particulate matter.

As a State that has such a rich environment and has been on the cutting edge of innovation in health care, we must put our efforts into improving public health by reducing dirty diesel emissions to improve the quality of air we breathe and prevent unnecessary illnesses and deaths, especially in our most vulnerable populations.

As a committee, I ask you to support HB 2007 and include strong amendments to improve the bill.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments and for all the work you do for Oregonians.

Sincerely,
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