



March 19, 2019

The Honorable Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Representatives Reschke and Schouten, Vice-Chairs
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment
900 Court St NE
Salem OR 97301

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Schouten, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, we'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in **support of HB 2007 accompanied by strengthening amendments**. We are a national nonprofit that works to advance safe walking and bicycling to and from schools, to improve the health and wellbeing of kids of all races, income levels, and abilities, and to foster the creation of healthy communities for everyone. In Oregon specifically, we support communities to meet these goals in the Central Lane, Salem-Keizer and Portland Metro regions, all of which are experiencing significant air quality issues as a result of diesel emissions.

In recent years we've supported the Legislature's use of VW settlement dollars to replace diesel school buses, and HB 2007 takes us an important step further in prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable communities in Oregon. Those most at-risk to air pollution include children, the elderly, those with chronic health problems, people of color, and people of lower socioeconomic levels. Air quality is an environmental justice issue that HB 2007 begins to address, and we are proud to support the measure with strengthening amendments that advance the deadline to meet 2010 emissions standards and close the "Glider Truck" loophole. We urge your passage of HB 2007, with careful consideration for strengthening amendments that will make this measure as meaningful as possible.

Thank you,

Becky Gilliam
Pacific Northwest Regional Policy Manager

Kari Schlosshauer
Pacific Northwest Senior Policy Manager
Safe Routes to School National Partnership