

Davies Family <daviesfamily@comcast.net>

To:

Chair Ken Helm

Vice Chair E. Werner Reschke

Vice Chair Sheri Schouten

My name is Rachel Davies, and I live in SE Portland (97202 zip code). I am very concerned about the damaging impacts of diesel pollution in my area, and **I urge you to support HB 2007 and strong amendments that will highlight a focus on protecting public health.**

I live less than a mile from the Brooklyn Rail Yard of the Union Pacific Rail Road, a known hot spot for diesel engine exhaust and other known damaging air pollutants related to aging and unfiltered truck and train engines. I have 3 children between the ages of 5 and 14, and I am increasingly concerned with long-term impacts to their health with prolonged exposure to diesel engine exhaust (specifically PM 2.5 and smaller, the most damaging type of diesel exhaust). Children are especially vulnerable because their lungs are still in the developmental phase and they breathe, on average, 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults do. Exposure to diesel engine exhaust causes cognitive impairment; cancer; increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular disease; exacerbates asthma; and can lead to low-weight and preterm births. There is also a growing body of evidence linking traffic-related air pollution, including diesel exhaust to neurodevelopment disorders like Autism Spectrum Disorder. Diesel pollution is presently at unhealthy concentrations throughout the state, especially in the Portland Metropolitan region. Multnomah County ranks highest in total and exposure concentrations among Oregon counties and the Tri-County region is in the 95th percentile for exposure nationally.

Although there are no areas of Multnomah County with safe levels of diesel pollution, the pollution “hotspots” are in neighborhoods with higher proportions of residents who are people of color. The disproportionate exposure to diesel mirrors health disparities in the community, particularly asthma, cardiovascular disease and low birth weights.

Having a healthy population is good for the economy and outweighs short-term impacts to private industry. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the annual impacts to public health from diesel pollution in Oregon cost us over \$3 Billion annually and include:

- over 25,000 lost work days
- over 400 premature deaths
- over 140 non-fatal heart attacks

Please support HB 2007 and strong amendments that will protect our health!

Sincerely,

Rachel Davies  
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Portland, OR 97202