

RE: HB 2007, the diesel bill

To: Chair Helm, Vice-chairs Reschke and Schouten
Rep. Findley, Rep. Salinas, Repl Sollman, Rep. Wilde

Cc: Rep. Kotek, Rep. Power, Rep. Nosse, Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Frederick,
Sen. Taylor, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Keny-Guyer, Rep. Neron, Rep.
Prusak, Rep. Sanchez, Rep. Warner

March 20, 2019

I am writing to thank the sponsors of HB 2007, and to urge the House Committee on Energy and Environment to take swift and decisive action to end the use of old diesel engines.

I was a line clearance tree trimmer for 30 years. It is from that perspective that I particularly want to address the testimony delivered on March 19 suggesting that people who work with diesel engines are not at additional health risk from exposure to diesel exhaust.

In 2017, I visited legislators offices, testified, and shared my story as a cancer survivor with the press, all in an effort to urge action on diesel engines. I enclose here a copy of my opinion editorial and another news piece.

I understand that no doctor can definitively tie my cancer to diesel exposure. But I also know this: I was regularly exposed to diesel exhaust. It is a carcinogen that raises risk of cancer. And I had cancer. It doesn't have to be that way anymore for workers, or for kids on school buses, or for communities.

Since I last testified before Oregon Legislature, four more men from my work group have been diagnosed with various types of cancer. My work partner is now in hospice. Many of my friends are sick or dead.

Sincerely,
Timber Jim Serrill
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