

**KARIN POWER**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

DISTRICT 41  
MULTNOMAH AND CLACKAMAS COUNTIES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Reshcke and Schouten, and members of the committee,

Oregon legislators have brought bills to reduce diesel pollution from on and off road old diesel engines for years. In 2017, I thought surely that with the new resources available through VW settlement funds, we'd be able to match our neighboring states in enacting guidelines to retire or retrofit old engines. Instead, the Legislature allocated \$18 million towards replacing dirty diesel school buses with clean, modern ones – important work, but we again let an opportunity to make meaningful progress on reducing diesel emissions on the table.

This year, I'm pleased to bring you HB 2007 for your consideration. In our work in crafting this bill, I went back and re-read testimony from past years and documents from my good Senator Michael Dembrow's work groups. I understand where business concerns have arisen, and we've crafted a bill to respond to the practical realities in moving toward cleaner diesel fleets, particularly for small businesses or individual owner-operators. This bill does three major things:

- It regulates on-road vehicles, not off-road vehicles or farm equipment (f plates), and requires that old engines be phased out in ten years
- It prioritizes the remaining estimated \$55 million in VW settlement funds for retrofits and replacements of dirty diesel engines that are older than 2010, the best-technology year for controlling and filtering pollutants, with funds available for voluntary off-road construction participation
- It directs EQC to enact ways to help small business owners and individual owner-operators to meet these regulations, through alternative compliance options like compliance extensions, fleet averaging options, and flexibility for small fleets.

But in 2019, we can no longer afford to wait to move towards cleaner standards like our neighboring states did years ago. The impact from our legislative inaction is not hard to ascertain. It's making kids sick. And it's costing us significant taxpayer money. Earlier last year, as part of a local Portland bond measure to repair and rebuild K-12 schools, Portland taxpayers footed the bill for a \$12.5 million specialized HVAC air quality treatment system for Harriet Tubman Middle School. This came on the heels of an environmental assessment of the school that found that outdoor air quality was so acute that its #1 recommendation *was to limit students' outdoor playground and recreational activities*. Levels of black carbon, carbon monoxide, ultrafine particles and nitrogen oxides are so elevated due to the school's proximity to freeways that kids shouldn't be outside at school. This school is far from the only one close to major thoroughfares. What we are exposing our children to at school is putting them in the position of being society's canary in a coal mine.

This year, we have a chance to make progress, using funds that are available and at the ready right now, to help shift our Oregon fleets and trucks towards cleaner equipment. We can't wait another year.



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Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Power".

State Representative Karin Power

