

Kate Brown
Governor



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Letter in Support of HB2007
Relating to engine emissions
House Committee on Rules
May 6, 2019, 3:00 PM, HR C

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Williamson and Wilson, and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW), in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports HB2007 in its adoption of diesel engine emission standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks.

According to the US Census Bureau, 50.4 percent of Oregonians are female. They're mothers, caregivers, and heads of family – and they're also feeling the effects of diesel pollution, particularly on their health. Gender is an important factor in determining the effect of diesel pollution on health issues. According to the Climate Reality Trust, "There is evidence of how pollution is associated with an increase in asthma in adolescent girls, a higher risk of acquiring lung cancer and heart disease in mid-life, and heart attacks, strokes, and dementia in older women." The research is especially concerning for pregnant women. "Adverse pregnancy outcomes, specifically premature birth and low birth weight, both of which often have life-long consequences, as well as stillbirth, have been associated with increasing air pollution."

Diesel pollution disproportionately affects women and children from **low-income communities** and communities of color. The effects have devastating consequences for communities of color and low-income communities as they experience higher exposure rates to pollution, resulting in higher rates of asthma, lung cancer and heart disease.

Diesel exhaust is costing Oregon billions of dollars each year in health care costs, lost lives and missed work and school. HB2007 provides an important state-wide approach in helping to alleviate diesel pollution from communities, especially those who are most vulnerable. This bill will impact the lives of women and girls in Oregon. We urge the House Committee on Rules to support HB2007 this session.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Spencer
Chair

OR Commission for Women

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Dr. Barbara Spencer

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