

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager  
In Support of Senate Bill 5702  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
February 12, 2020**



Co-chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Committee:

Metro is the elected regional government that serves more than 1.6 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

As you know, transportation emissions are a significant source of air pollution and greenhouse gases. As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning in the Portland region, Metro has collaborated for more than two decades with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the implementation of strategies to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. While the region's current air quality is in compliance with federal standards, we know more must be done to achieve our air quality goals and state-mandated greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The region's strategy for addressing transportation emissions has been to address three factors: vehicle fuel economy, fuels, and vehicle miles traveled. Metro's focus has been on reducing vehicle miles traveled through land use strategies that emphasize compact, walkable and transit-friendly development, as well as through development, in collaboration with our local and state partners, of a robust multimodal transportation network.

Meanwhile, DEQ is responsible for addressing clean fuels and (more to the point today) vehicle fuel economy. The Vehicle Inspection Program plays a critical role in ensuring that individual vehicles run as clean as possible and achieve the best possible mileage, thereby minimizing both air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

This partnership has enabled the Portland region to remain in compliance with federal air quality requirements for more than two decades, and our per capita vehicle miles traveled have consistently remained lower than the national average. In turn, this has allowed the region to absorb significant population and economic growth without new violations of federal air quality standards.

The modest and overdue fee increase included in SB 5702 will enable DEQ to continue to support both public health and economic prosperity by ensuring that cars and trucks are running cleaner and polluting less. We urge your support.