

February 12, 2020

Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon, and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to support SB 5702. A strong vehicle inspection program (VIP) is the cornerstone of clean air policy in the Portland metropolitan region. This modest fee increase would ensure program stability and self-sufficiency for the coming decade. In turn, a stable and self-sufficient VIP program will help to forestall worsening air quality and help to ensure more severe restrictions are not imposed by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

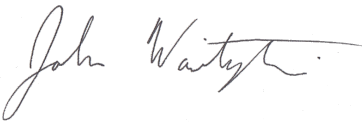
In recent years, air-quality in the Portland metro area has been threatened because of high ozone or ground-level smog. The upward trend in ozone is driven by increases in car trips, and without the VIP this problem would be much worse. Oregon DEQ data shows that 25% of cars have emissions systems repaired in the weeks leading up to their DEQ inspection, modern pollution controls only work if maintained. Moreover, a recent analysis found that the VIP program decreases motor vehicle pollution by 20%, this is a critical reduction that cannot be taken for granted.

Ozone is not the only air quality issue caused by auto emissions. Indeed, cars are the number one source of air toxics and greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. Car

exhaust is a mixture of pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub>, Carbon Monoxide, and particulate matter) that cause/worsen respiratory disease and asthma, and this is in addition to the harm caused by secondary pollutants like ozone. Car exhaust also contains greenhouse gasses which are causing global climate change. A well functioning VIP program is a baseline of protection from the harmful impacts of these pollutants. It is also important to note that exposure to Ozone and other on-road mobile source pollutants are not equally distributed. According to a DEQ study, people of color and low-income people are much more likely to live near major thoroughfares and be exposed to the highest concentrations of pollution from cars and trucks.

I urge your support for this modest, yet vital, legislation that will put this important program on firm footing for the future. Vote yes on SB 5702 and help to secure Oregon's clean air future.

Sincerely,



John Wasiutynski  
Director