

March 3, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St. NE, HR D
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Quiet Clean PDX supports House Bill 2814 that directs the Environmental Quality Commission to establish and implement an indirect source review program. It is long past time for Oregon to catch up to environmental protection measures of other states. And we must do all we can to help the environment.

Diesel particulate matter is terribly elevated in the Portland metropolitan area. The EPA reports that diesel exposure in Portland's tri-county area is in the 95th percentile nationally. And heavy duty trucks account for less than half of total diesel emissions in the state, leaving the majority of diesel pm sources significantly under-reported and unregulated.

More than two-thirds of toxic air related risk is attributable to diesel particulate matter, according to the California Air Resource Board. And studies over this past year show that Covid's mortality rate appears to be deeply linked to air pollution exposure.

This is an important environmental justice issue in Oregon. There are higher levels of diesel pollution in neighborhoods with concentrations of black and brown residents. BIPOC communities experience air pollution 20 times higher than state health benchmarks. This uneven pollution exposure poses significant higher health risks for communities of color and low-income populations.

An equitable, statewide program to reduce indirect sources is an important priority to improve our public health. The program authorized by HB 2814 is a necessary and effective tool for reducing air toxics exposures from indirect sources of air pollution.

We join the chorus of Oregon voices in urging your support for HB 2814.

Thank you,

Michael Hall for Quiet Clean PDX