

KHANH PHAM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 46



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support for HB 2814

March 3, 2021

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Khanh Pham and I represent Oregon House District 46. I am honored to testify today in support of House Bill 2814 as a co-chief sponsor alongside Representative Dexter, because this bill would directly benefit my constituents as well as the entire state.

HD 46 is a district split by several major highways that concentrate many of the harmful emissions that are particularly harmful to human health. My young daughter and I live in a neighborhood that is surrounded by warehouses, parking lots, and is boxed in all sides by 4 major freight corridors-- the 205 Freeway, 82nd Ave Highway, Division, and Powell. Every time we play outside or go for a walk, we do it within what is considered a heavy air pollution hotspot.

This census tract I live in is also one of the most diverse census tracts in the state, and data from a few years ago showed that rates of asthma were almost double the average rates in the rest of the city of Portland. Air pollution is a big concern among parents in my district, who want their children to be able to play outside, but worry about pollution from the many parking lots, high traffic corridors, and diesel freight trucks idling outside stores.

The Oregon DEQ recently conducted an [Air Toxics Solutions study](#) that found that about half of the 19 pollutants assessed, including formaldehyde, arsenic, and cadmium, were *over ten times* the health benchmark. The study also found that pollution from construction engines and other indirect sources disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations.

The great thing about House Bill 2814 is it presents a crucial opportunity to update our indirect source program to respond to modern science regarding health impacts, and also allows us to take climate action at the same time. Because of incomplete combustion, diesel engines release what's called "black carbon" which as we learned last Monday, is a potent contributor to climate change because it absorbs solar radiation and converts it to heat. Therefore, when we take action to reduce air pollutants, we're also helping to protect the climate.

My neighbors and I, and the countless other families living in air polluted neighborhoods, are bearing the full cost of toxins from what regulation calls *indirect* polluting sources, but we feel it *directly* in our lungs and in our health outcomes. It's time that the full cost of development, and its impact on clean air and climate, are fully accounted for in Oregon.

By allowing the EQC to develop rules for indirect sources, the state and local governments gain more clarity and ability to regulate diesel emissions and protect public health. Please join me in supporting HB 2814. Thank you.