

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon, and all the members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Support: SB 5517 POP 110 – restoring DEQ's Vehicle Inspection Program

Oregon DEQ's Vehicle Inspection Program is a powerful tool to control the largest source of air pollution in Oregon and meet environmental justice goals. Maintaining emissions testing as a public service, as opposed to a for-profit enterprise, is key to equity, and reducing the burden on those who rely on older vehicles. Oregon's fees – including the increase reflected in SB 5517 – are among the lowest in the nation and are approximately 1/3 of privatized programs. No program in the country provides all of the customer-focused benefits of Oregon, including unlimited free testing – which is a particularly important equity issue for those who rely on older vehicles. Oregon has demonstrated year after year it can deliver high levels of service, compliance and customer satisfaction without unduly raising the cost. Ratifying the current \$4 fee increase would represent only the first increase in the program for over 20 years.

I urge you to ratify the DEQ VIP fee increase to ensure the program can continue its critical work to protect our air quality.