

Chair and Committee Member:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important bill. I am an environmental health scientist and epidemiologist and I am very concerned about controlling air pollution because of the many illnesses and deaths caused by exposure to toxic air contaminants. Transportation in Oregon is a major contributor to air pollution. One way to reduce emissions from vehicles is the DEQ vehicle inspection program which is a public service that works to prevent illnesses and deaths from heart and lung disease, for example, by making sure that cars are emitting less pollutants. The fees are reasonable for the benefit to society in reducing health care costs and loss of productivity. Please vote yes on SB 5517 and allow EQC and DEQ to make increased to fees as needed and in a way that considers all car owners. This is really cost effective. Thank you for your hard work.