



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Briannon Fraley, Director
1221 S.W. Fourth Ave., Room 410
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 823-4130
Fax: (503) 823-3014

April 12, 2021

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE, Salem OR 97301

Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon, and Members of the Subcommittee,

The City of Portland supports the approval of a fee increase for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Vehicle Inspection Program (VIP) in SB 5517. A well-supported and functioning Vehicle Inspection Program is an essential, cost-effective tool for cleaner air, reducing greenhouse gases, and protecting the health of our communities.

Transportation-related emissions are major air pollution and greenhouse gas sources in Portland. DEQ recently conducted a VIP cost effectiveness report and analysis. The report found that the VIP program provides a 20% decrease of transportation-related emissions. Modern cars are designed to run cleaner, but only if maintained. The VIP program ensures maintenance of vehicle pollution control systems.

Reducing the ability to mitigate transportation-related emissions would disproportionately burden environmental justice communities. A DEQ overlay of the Portland Air Toxics on-road pollution and population data found uneven and increased health risks for non-white populations in Portland.

A fee increase will help ensure continued efficiencies and participation. Measurements of customer satisfaction have positive results. DEQ received over 10,000 comment cards in 2018 and had a 97% customer satisfaction rate. However, current fee intake is not enough to cover existing operations. Increased wait times, lack of options for testing facilities and the ease of getting your car tested at the same time as picking up your registration stickers would hamper performance. Decreased satisfaction could result in decreased support for this important emissions reduction strategy.

Running an efficient and innovative program is key to an effective program. The VIP program fee has not increased for 20 years, not even adjusted for inflation or population growth. The VIP program is a robust tool for reducing vehicle emissions and protecting health. The City of Portland supports SB 5517 to approve a fee increase for the DEQ VIP program.

Sincerely,

Eric Noll
City of Portland

Eric.Noll@portlandoregon.gov | 503.823.6726