

My name is Aaron Brown, and I live in the St Johns neighborhood of North Portland. I'm emailing you today to encourage you to support HB 2814. The impressive list of community organizations sponsoring and supporting this bill (including Audubon Society of Portland, Neighbors for Clean Air, Verde, and Climate Solutions) can speak more to the technical aspects of why this legislation is crucially necessary towards addressing the systemic inequalities inherent in our polluted environment. I wish to add my support as a private citizen who has been radicalized to the cause of cleaner air in my work as a transportation and climate advocate who has stumbled into the academic literature of just how astoundingly bad air pollution is for public health. It shouldn't surprise anyone on this committee that the benefits and burdens of allowing such toxic pollution to continue are unevenly distributed, and in light of the numerous studies showing that covid's mortality rate appears to be deeply linked to exposure to air pollution, it seems evident that aggressively tackling air pollution in all forms is both a morally imperative and economically cost-effective initiative that will directly help communities in most need of support.