

Susheela Jayapal



Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

February 10, 2022

Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 9730

RE: Support of HB 4141

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

I am Susheela Jayapal, Multnomah County Commissioner for District 2, representing North, Northeast, and parts of East Portland. In 2020, I served as the Chair of the Task Force on Supporting Businesses in Reducing Diesel Emissions.

Diesel engines power our economy — we rely on them to get business done. We know, however, that emissions from diesel engines create a serious health problem. Daily, thousands of diesel engines operate on the I-5 and I-205 corridors, emitting diesel exhaust that contains up to 40 hazardous substances, including many of Oregon's most toxic air pollutants. My district contains many of these transportation corridors.

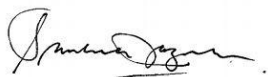
The neighborhoods adjacent to these highway corridors are among the most diverse in the County and the state, with relatively high concentrations of lower-income people, and Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. The diesel pollution they are subjected to is a contributing factor to higher rates of cardiovascular, respiratory, and other illnesses. Diesel pollution is a public health issue, and a health equity issue.

The Task Force on Supporting Businesses in Reducing Diesel Emissions was created by HB 2007, and comprised of business representatives, health advocates, and elected officials. The Task Force report, published in December of 2020, outlined strategies for diesel emission reduction. Included among those strategies was the use of alternative fuels such as renewable diesel. The report noted that renewable diesel produces fewer tailpipe emissions, thus reducing air pollution; and reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

By establishing a timeline for restrictions on sales of petroleum diesel for use in motor vehicles, and for restrictions on the purchase of petroleum diesel for use in motor vehicles by public bodies, HB 4141 provides a pathway for replacing dirty diesel with cleaner renewable diesel. As we wait for even

cleaner alternatives to become commercially available and feasible, this bill will produce immediate health benefits for my constituents and for communities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samira Dagher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small underline under the first name.