

Submitter: Emily Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2396

When I moved back to Oregon in 1980, I was surprised to read of the high rates of respiratory disease in my State of origin. How could that be with all the green, the trees, the rain and cleansing winds? Too much wood burning and cigarette smoking? When I moved to Portland in 2010 the statistics were not improved. I learned that DEQ was not even measuring particulate pollution from diesel, and it was apparent the State prioritized industry and transportation over the people's health. When California implemented clean diesel laws, Oregon did not follow suit but became the dumping ground for the equipment that was outlawed in CA. Now Oregon is measuring and alerting the public to bad air, but the important changes to clean up equipment on construction sites has not been undertaken. And the public will continue to suffer from diesel pollution on highways for too many more years. Portland residential areas are criss-crossed by dangerous air pollution from highways, industry and construction sites. Those in the least desirable living areas get double and triple exposures from impactful sources. To date that multiple exposure has not even been grounds for reducing the impacts to particular neighborhoods. It's shameful to care more about profiteering than the health and wellness of all citizens. Oregon can do better. HB 2396 is a solid step in the right direction.