



February 15, 2023

Representative Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon supports House Bill 2396

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, member-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water, open space and a liveable climate, representing tens of thousands of members across Oregon. We support House Bill 2396.

House Bill 2396 would direct the Environmental Quality Commission to develop and implement rules to control diesel emissions from indirect air pollution sources, including equipment used at distribution centers, construction sites, marine terminals, rail yards and other currently unregulated sources.

Diesel emissions contribute to climate change. Diesel particulate matter is a significant source of Black Carbon, which is a powerful but short-lived pollutant with a warming impact on the climate up to 1500 times stronger than carbon dioxide. Diesel pollution also negatively impacts public health. Breathing diesel exhaust can elevate the risk of asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, stroke and cancer. This is a critical issue that requires meaningful action.

In 2019, Environment Oregon was a co-petitioner urging the EQC to take on this critical rulemaking, and we are in full support of House Bill 2396. We urge its passage to protect public health and reduce climate pollution.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director