



To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Date: 2/16/2023

**RE: SUPPORT of HB 2396, Indirect Source Rule**

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2396. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's strong support to pass HB 2396, the Indirect Source Rule. HB 2396 is a bill of support in the OCN Hotlist of Bills for the 2023 Legislative Session.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). OCN is a coalition of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

**OLCV and OCN Support HB 2396 Because:**

\*Air pollution is the #1 threat to human health on the globe.

\*In Oregon, air pollution is the #1 environmental threat to people.

\*14 years ago the state legislature established the directive to reduce diesel pollution so that it would bring cancer risk below one in a million. The state has reduced *less than 2%* of the pollution needed to meet that health standard.

\*Diesel PM continues to be a significant threat to the health of Oregonians and, unlike over 600 industrial pollutants covered by Cleaner Air Oregon, the largest sources of it are entirely unregulated.

\*Diesel PM is a significant source of Black Carbon which warms the planet at a rate up to 1500 times stronger than carbon dioxide.

**Regulating Diesel Particulate Matter would:**

1. Reduce the risk of the three leading causes of death in Multnomah County (cancer, heart disease and respiratory illness).
2. Improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors by lowering incidences of Covid and absenteeism, as well as improving mental health and academic performance.
3. Save billions every year in health care costs and lost work days.
4. Improves the safety and well-being of workers, while reducing health-associated costs to employers, including a reduction in lost workdays
5. Reduces one of Oregon's leading contributions to global climate change

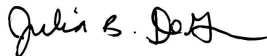
**HB 2396** is the logical growth of the existing Indirect Source Program (**Or. Admin. R. 340-254-0010**). It directs the Environmental Quality Commission to create rules to control the emissions associated specifically with diesel hotspots. These hotspots would include distribution centers, railyards, marine ports and construction sites. The bill does not define what those controls would be, it instead directs the agency to **convene a rulemaking process that brings together all the major stakeholders** to collaboratively create meaningful, practical actions to reduce toxic pollution in our most affected communities.

**Practices HB 2396 could promote:**

1. Clean diesel contracting standards, which would include transitioning to newer, cleaner engines and reducing idling times
2. Green infrastructure to support cleaner vehicles
3. Buffer zones between large polluters and residential neighborhoods
4. More electrification plug-in options
5. Grant preferences

It is for all these reasons that I urge your support of HB 2396 to help tens of thousands of Oregonians breathe healthier air while greatly reducing climate pollution.

Sincerely,



Julia B. DeGraw

Coalition Director

Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Pew Charitable Trusts, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Zero Coalition