

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez
Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB 3229

I am Wesley Ward and I live in Brooklyn, Inner Southeast Portland. Although I submit this on my own behalf, I am a member of the Climate and Environmental Justice Action Team of Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good, and the Brooklyn Climate Justice Team. First, I want to thank members of this Committee including Michael Dembrow and Khan Pham, and my local legislators Rob Nosse and Kathleen Taylor for their staunch support of clean air, cleaner diesel, and Oregon's leadership on climate issues.

Since moving to Portland from Boston in 2016, well into my seventies, while the Bullseye Glass controversy raged, I have questioned how poorly informed I was to venture into a new city without having checked the air quality of my new neighborhood, about ½ mile east of Bullseye Glass, ¼ mile west of the Brooklyn Railyard, and two blocks from the new Tri-Met Garage. For the past five years I have monitored particulate emissions from my front porch, and I've noted on my monitor's monthly charts the frequent peaks of PM 2.5 emissions (otherwise known as "soot") many times higher than EPA standards and the Oregon benchmark. Fortunately, unlike too many of my neighbors in Portland and other Oregon cities, I do not suffer from a compromised immune system, respiratory distress, or have family members with asthma.

I understand that DEQ has been chronically under-staffed, under-resourced, and unable to meet its responsibilities in a timely manner under the Title V air quality permitting program upon which we all rely for a healthful environment. While those who oppose more rigorous air quality standards and a more effective DEQ may feel that they are protecting Oregon's businesspeople and economy, they are not standing for the health of Oregon's 4.3 million people, for a better future, and a livable climate.

The proposed fee increases in this bill, the first in over a decade, will help DEQ to remedy these deficiencies and improve its performance on our behalf. I strongly urge you to support HB 3229.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Ward