

Submitter: Brian Ettling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3119

Thank you, members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 3119, which Prohibits the Department of Environmental Quality from implementing or enforcing the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations before January 1, 2027.

My name is Brian Ettling and I live in outer Northeast Portland. For 25 years, I was a seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, which is known for having some of the cleanest air in the United States, since it is not located close to any major city or industrial area. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the U.S. and considered to be one of the cleanest and purest bodies of water in the world.

Sadly, in my time working at Crater Lake, I noticed the impact of climate change with the annual snowpack diminishing. Even more, the wildfire season becoming longer and healthier with the smoke coming into the park from wildfires happening in Oregon and in the Pacific Northwest region. The smoke would get so bad at times that visitors with breathing issues would have to cancel their vacations to Crater Lake. When visitors cancelled their trips, it had negative impacts on the local Oregon economy.

Scientists tells us that the largest source of climate change pollution in the U.S. and Oregon now is vehicle tailpipe emissions from burning gasoline and diesel. Air pollution from burning these fuels kills around 9 million people a year globally and negatively impacts the health of millions of Americans.
(<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/global-pollution-kills-9-million-people-each-year/>)

In 2017, I quit my Crater Lake seasonal ranger job to become a climate change organizer to reduce that threat and deadly air pollution. Sadly, I left the high air quality of Crater Lake to live by a major busy street in northeast Portland, Oregon.

I was alarmed to read a 2023 New York University study that living by a busy urban road can raise the risk of premature death by 20 percent. The American Lung Association reports that adults living closer to a busy road or highway—within 300 meters—may risk dementia. The Environmental Protection Agency’s website states that “research has demonstrated that exposure to pollutants emitted from motor vehicles can cause lung and heart problems and premature death.”

Thus, I am scared about the long-term health impacts of living next to a busy road in

urban Northeast Portland. My wife and I frequently open our windows in spring, summer and fall to cool down our apartment, which lets in the dirty emissions from nearby vehicle traffic.

This is why I strongly oppose HB 3119. I consider this bill to be a major threat to cleaning up the harmful air pollution in the metro Portland area and for Oregon. This bill will delay Oregon's clean truck policies for healthier air. With Donald Trump back in the White House and threats to our climate and environment coming down from the federal level, we need to do more in Oregon to take action on climate, not backtrack. I consider this bill to be a major threat to Oregon's air quality and environment. I strongly urge you to vote no on this bill.

There's no way around this fact: diesel pollution has devastating impacts, and Oregon communities are already suffering. Diesel pollution specifically contains 40 cancer-causing compounds, contributes to 176 premature deaths annually, and costs our state \$2 billion in health impacts each year. One of the fastest ways to cut this deadly pollution is by implementing our state's long-established clean truck rules, yet oil and gas companies have launched their attack on these policies. The oil and gas companies, as well as local trucking industry wants to roll back Advanced Clean Trucks regulations so they can continue business-as-usual to keep polluting our Oregon communities and state.

Thank you for letting me share these thoughts with you. Again, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3119.

With much gratitude,

Brian Ettling
Portland