

Testimony against HB 3119

Honored committee members, speaking as an individual and lifelong voter in Oregon, I strongly urge you to vote against HB 3119 which Prohibits the Department of Environmental Quality from implementing or enforcing the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations before January 1, 2027.

My reasons:

I have been working for 40 years in east Portland as a general internal medicine physician both in the hospital and as an outpatient primary care physician. I have seen a steady decrease in the number of patients dying of chronic lung disease both because of the decrease in cigarette smoking and for those who never smoked, as our air has become cleaner due to the work of our DEQ.

Of the efforts to decrease air pollution, one of the main drivers has been the shift to cleaner cars and other vehicles. The holdout has been the trucking industry which continues to use diesel fuel trucks.

My practice is at the confluence of I-84 and I-205 which is full trucks day and night. The neighborhoods therefore are in close proximity to these diesel emissions, and my patients are exposed through their lifetimes to this pollution.

Research is increasingly showing that air pollution from any source increases heart disease as well as lung disease and cancer, and those neighborhoods close to freeways have much higher rates of these diseases as well as increased early mortality. A recent study of all Medicare patients showed that exposure to air pollution decreases longevity. Multiple studies have shown proximity to freeways, especially interchanges, result in worse outcomes, more heart & lung disease, asthma in kids, and shorter life spans for those living near by.

Summary:

- Neighborhoods that live at or near interstate intersections experience much different air quality than neighborhoods who live farther away from interstate intersections
- Every time an individual hits the brakes of their vehicle, there's an increased emission of particulate matter and thus, more air pollution
- Local laws can mitigate the difference in air quality of these neighborhoods

We need to enforce a change to lower emission trucks in our state for the health of our communities. Please don't delay the work in this area by approving this bill.

For more information I refer you to a 2 part 30 minute podcast by two experts in the impact on climate change on our patients. There are references on the website as well, if you want a deeper dive.

<https://www.thedeishift.com/episode-30a.html>

<https://www.thedeishift.com/episode-30b.html>

