

Submitter: Haile Peveto
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB3119
Subject: Opposition to HB 3119

Members of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I am writing to show my opposition for proposed HB 3119. I grew up in Oregon and always admired the vibrant green colors of our state, the local parks where families gathered, and playing sports outside with other kids. I developed exercise induced asthma in middle school and used an inhaler when I played outdoor sports. My middle school, Harriet Tubman, was located not 200 feet from I-5. Everyday, young students are breathing in toxic air from our highways. Maybe one solution is to not build a school right next to a big polluting hotspot, but as I get older I see toxic hotspots developing in all areas of my city and state. Warehouses and distribution centers are welcoming hundreds of large trucks to funnel through residential neighborhoods. It's scary to see that the illusion I had of Oregon being so green and having such fresh air, isn't so true. A real demand for goods does exist, and these trucks wouldn't have a purpose if we could limit our consumption of the products they are bringing. But delaying and fighting against laws that would help clean Oregon's air is a frightening battle between capitalism and the health of Oregon residents.

Most of the other testimonies in opposition to this bill are from healthcare providers and science backed professionals that see the very real and deadly health impacts that air pollution causes. Those voices should be leveraged, so I'm writing to highlight what has been said about the health impacts of diesel pollution. Diesel particles are small and extremely toxic. Studies show that children are impacted strongly by diesel exhaust because they breathe at a quicker rate, and penetrate into the bloodstream causing long term health impacts like asthma, lung cancer, heart problems and other harm. Why expose children to these toxic chemicals as a means to transport them to school and back? I want to encourage students to play outside and join sports, but worry for their health if they live near highways or other toxic hotspots. California and Washington have adopted stronger diesel regulations, and instead of following, Oregon adopts their old, toxic engines to power through our state. Oregon is admired for our abundance of nature and green landscape. Please uphold this vision, protect the health and lives of everyone in this state and those to come, and don't delay in cleaning up our air, by opposing HB 3119.

Thank you for reading, and for your dedication to represent the people of our state.

Sincerely,
Haile Peveto