

Submitter: hayden embelton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3062

Testimony on House or Senate Bill # HB3062  
Hayden Embelton, Parkrose High School Student

Chairman/woman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Hayden, and I am part of the activism class at Parkrose High School. Something you should know about my community is that air quality is bad and there's a lot of garbage and homeless people and underprivileged people. In preparation for this hearing, we were ecstatic when given the incredible opportunity to take action and fight for our future, and the future of generations to come. We want to demonstrate our utmost support for a clean air and clean community.

There are a multitude of things you think about when you're young and considering your future: your aspirations, your future family, your career, and your happiness. And for most young people, these fantasies are filled with optimism and excitement. But for those of my generation and the generations to follow, our futures are burdened with conditions, limitations and destruction. We can no longer separate our future from the devastating effects of air pollution, and so many people are already living this heartbreaking reality. We aren't lucky enough to live somewhere where we have good air but climate change doesn't wait for anyone, it's our turn to face the devastation. My potential children will be around my age now, and their climate will be completely different than the one I grew up with. They will not have the luxury of experiencing everything our beautiful Earth has to offer, because it will no longer be the planet as we know it to be now.

I think speaking out about issues affecting my community is important because we need to speak out so people could know what our community is going through so we could get help, parkrose doesn't have what other communities do have. The city of Portland isn't helping the air pollution, they're making it worse. So please consider our lives as the next generation of leaders, the lives of those already suffering and the lives of those yet to be born, when considering fossil fuel infrastructure in Portland. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.

Sincerely.

Hayden Embelton