To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Alexandra Perkins and I am a pediatrician, as well as a lifelong Washington resident. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the updates to the Clean Truck Rules.  I commend the Department of Ecology for ensuring clean trucks on our roads by upholding the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) program and the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx rule (HDO).  As a pediatrician, I am deeply concerned with the health impacts of air pollution on young children with developing lungs.  Air pollution is caused directly by diesel exhaust, and indirectly by transport emissions that worsen climate change and increase the frequency and intensity of wildfire events.  Delaying policies like ACT and HDO by even two years would cause $67.6-83.7 million in health costs, and direct consequences for children including asthma attacks and hospitalizations for respiratory disease. There is an ongoing national effort targeted at repealing this rule and others like it by the trucking industry and manufacturers.  Children should not have to suffer the consequences of this.

I strongly support Ecology’s proposed rules on ACT and HDO to continue standing up to polluting special interests who seek to delay or halt progress. The Advanced Clean Truck rule is critical for Washington to meet its climate targets in law and for improving our health.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alexandra Perkins