

Colleen Anderson

My name is Colleen Anderson, C-O-L-E-E-N-A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. And I live in Yakima in the 4th Legislative District. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Um, I'm a co-leader of 350 Yakima Climate Action. And more importantly, I'm a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother. I speak today with deep concern for the health and future of my family and all children who will inherit the world we leave behind. For families like mine, this issue is personal. My son lives with asthma, and on bad air days, even breathing becomes a struggle. Diesel pollution makes these days more frequent and more dangerous. It hits hardest in communities already overburdened, especially children, low-income families and people of color. Excuse me. Yakima is an agricultural town with a high volume of truck traffic. Many people work around or inside trucks every day, exposed to diesel fumes that damage their lungs and shorten their lives. The harm is clear and measurable. Diesel emissions in Yakima are increasing. The Department of Ecology has identified East Yakima, particularly near I-82 as a hotspot for asthma, chronic lung disease, and tragically low life expectancy- among the lowest in the state. We cannot ignore the human cost of inaction. I urge you to stand with the families of Yakima and across Washington and support these proposed rules to help address the climate crisis and meet our state's climate goals. These rules are a critical step. Toward reducing transportation-related pollution. The largest source of climate emissions in our state. And it will protect public health and communities like mine. We must not let polluters roll back the progress we've made. Thank you for your leadership, and for listening.