

JACKIE DINGFELDER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



OREGON STATE SENATE
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MEASURE: SB 1512 A
EXHIBIT: 1
2012 SESSION H ENERGY, ENV. & WATER
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SUBMITTED BY: Sen Jackie Dingfelder

To: House Energy, Environment and Water Committee
From: Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Senate District 23
Date: February 23rd, 2012

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1512

Co-Chair Bailey, Co-Chair Gilliam, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these written comments in support of SB 1512, a bill which will result in less mercury exposure for Oregonians. Fluorescent lights, especially compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), work well and are very energy efficient. Not only do they use less energy than an incandescent bulb, CFLs also last 5 to 10 times longer. For consumers, CFLs are a great way to save energy and money. Consequently, the use of CFLs has steadily grown, and today they can be found in most homes. Despite their great value at saving energy and money, CFLs also contain mercury—a heavy metal that can damage the brain, liver, and kidneys and can cause developmental disorders in children.

Due to mercury's significant threat to human health, reducing mercury exposures is a priority both at the state and federal level. SB 1512 offers us an opportunity to make progress on this front by:

- Lowering the mercury content standards for commonly used lighting, and
- Establishing state procurement guidelines that favor lower-mercury content lamps.

This is an effective approach, and other states—such as California and Maine—have passed similar mercury-content standards. After many months of working on SB 1512 with advocates, government agencies, and manufacturers, I believe Oregon is ready to be the next state to implement lower mercury-content standards for lighting.

SB 1512 helps us toward our goal of a safer and healthier Oregon, and I urge your yes vote.

