From: Shana Mita-Canote
To: JWMNR Exhibits
Subject: Support for HB 2269
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 12:49:02 PM

Joint Committee on Ways and Means SubCommittee on Natural Resources

May 11, 2017

To: Co-Chairs Frederick and Witt and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to support HB 2269 because Oregon desperately needs to improve it's air quality for the health of its environment and residents. We need to support Governor Brown and the DEQ in their efforts to improve Oregon's air quality. Cleaner Air Oregon scientific experts, OHA, and community members have worked very hard and spent lots of time crafting new and better air quality standards and rules, but if not funded the new required improvements are not likely to be implemented or enforced.

Other recent air quality bills have failed to protect residents mainly due to industry's powerful influence. The people of Oregon need help and support so that the air quality of Oregon can be improved. Industry needs to work towards health-protective standards to improve air quality in Oregon. Without health protective rules, industry has no safety guideline to go by in trying to keep residents healthy. If the business-as-usual pollution levels go unchecked peoples' health will continue to be harmed.

California has some of the most stringent air quality rules and goals for the use of renewable, clean energy, and yet it has a flourishing economy. Oregon can do this too. It's very possible to have a healthy economy along with healthy air standards. To implement Cleaner Air Oregon's progressive standards, fees to companies are minimal and are adjusted to the size of the companies.

Powerful industry forces in Oregon have resisted improving environmental standards for many years, and Oregon's citizens need the government to take action for the health and good of the public. Please we urge you, our elected representatives, to protect not only the financial gains of companies who make profits while polluting our air, but please protect and improve the health of your constituents.

People have been, and are working so hard to create fair and healthy standards through the Cleaner Air Oregon process. I urge you strongly to help Oregon and its residents succeed in making health-based regulations. Industry won't change without your help so we again ask for you to use your abilities for the public good.

Thank you for reading and considering my thoughts as you continue to go through this legislative process.

Sincerely,

Shana Mita Canote

South Portland Air Quality