



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 21, 2019

TO: Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Natural Resources

RE: HB 5017, relating to the financial administration of the DEQ

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Sub-Committee:

During the 2017 Legislative session, Lane County and the city of Oakridge advocated successfully for an infusion of \$250,000 into the DEQ biennial budget to address the recommendations that came out of the statewide effort to from the previous biennium to examine ways to reduce the impacts of wood smoke within Oregon.

In the fall of 2018 after review of the Department of Environmental Qualities Agency Request Budget, we wrote to Governor Brown and asked that she include the Agency's Policy Option Package #114, "Reduce Harmful Wood Smoke Pollution" into her Recommended Budget. The agency requested \$500,000 for this effort.

Ultimately that POP was not included in the GRB, and Lane County asks that the sub-committee please review that work and add funding for the continuation of wood smoke mitigation efforts into the Legislatively Recommended Budget.

This work is exceedingly important for Lane County. The issue is that when a city gets designated as "PM 2.5 non-attainment" by the EPA, the entire county is painted with that designation. As a result, ALL emitters can be impacted with additional regulatory requirements, which can be a very real burden for our economic development efforts.

Thank you for considering this request and we would be happy to provide the Committee with any additional information about the work to mitigate wood smoke in the community of Oakridge.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY