LEW FREDERICK
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 22

OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT STREET ST NE
SALEM, OREGON 97301

Testimony in Support of SB 792

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen and members of the Committee, I am Lew Frederick. I am pleased to represent Senate District #22, North and Northeast Portland. I'd like to speak to you about SB 792.

On March 12th of last year, I was flying to Atlanta. When I landed, I noticed a series of text messages and phone calls alerting me to and asking about the very large plume of smoke billowing from NE Portland westward. I immediately searched local news to learn what was happening and saw that NW Metals had caught fire, forcing hundreds of people from the Cully neighborhood to leave their homes and businesses to flee for safety. By the time the fire was put out, it had destroyed a duplex and two single family homes.

After the fire, the community came to me and my colleagues asking for us to find a way to prevent this kind of thing from happening at other auto dismantler sites around the state. We commissioned a report from DEQ and as a result, we drafted SB 792 which would remove an exemption for auto dismantlers from solid waste permitting. There have been additional amendments offered which arose because of conversations with the stakeholders impacted by this proposal.

As this conversation continues, I know that there will be significant disagreement on how we move forward with a bill that protects communities, that is practical for agency enforcement while ensuring the wellbeing of surrounding communities without being overly burdensome to auto dismantler operations. I believe that any version of the bill that we come to should:

- Oversee materials management on auto dismantler sites enforced by DEQ
- Allow DMV to revoke an auto dismantler certificate due to non-compliance with a DEQ enforcement action
- And tackle the issue of fire response and prevention

I hope that we can continue this conversation and find a path forward, so that we never have to witness another scenario like the one that we all witnessed one year ago today.