



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Briannon Fraley, Director
1221 S.W. Fourth Ave., Room 410
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 823-4130
Fax: (503) 823-3014

April 12, 2021

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE, Salem OR 97301

Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon, and Members of the Subcommittee,

The Legislature should invest in programs at the Department of Environmental Quality with a focus on environmental justice initiatives that center frontline and BIPOC communities. The City of Portland supports the inclusion of the following programs and funding packages in the Agency's 2021-23 biennial budget:

- **POP 90 – Office of Environmental Justice.** Data is crucial to address environmental burdens in impact communities. The City of Portland strongly supports this package to address longstanding environmental inequities, implement policies that don't exacerbate these existing inequities, and repair past harms to frontline and BIPOC communities.
- **POP 110 – Maintain Vehicle Inspection Program (VIP).** The City of Portland supports SB 5517 to approve a fee increase for the DEQ VIP program. A well-supported and functioning VIP is an essential, cost-effective tool for cleaner air, reducing greenhouse gases, and protecting the health of our communities. Reducing the ability to mitigate transportation-related emissions would disproportionately burden environmental justice communities.
- **POP 111 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction.** This package will provide necessary funding to implement the greenhouse gas reduction programs currently under development by the Agency and the Environmental Quality Commission. Urgent action is needed for Oregon to meeting reduction targets and avoid the most harmful effects of the climate crisis, especially those to frontline and BIPOC communities.
- **POP 113 – Implement Clean Diesel Legislation.** This package is needed to implement the provisions of HB 2007 (2019), which accelerates the cleanup of older diesel trucks in the Portland Metro area.
- **POP 121 – Clean Watershed Plans.** The positions associated with this package are critical for DEQ to develop TMDLs on schedule and make timely progress to address water quality impairments across Oregon.

- **POPs 124 – Clean Water State Revolving Fund.** The CWSRF an essential tool for local government agencies to address needed infrastructure that maintains water quality and to supports community growth.
- **POP 125 – Lottery Fund Restoration.** Eliminating positions associated with this package would hinder DEQ’s ability to implement non-point source pollution program requirements.
- **POP 131 – Modernization Oregon’s Recycling System.** The City of Portland participated in the recycling steering committee and supports this package, which is complimentary to SB 582, to provide significant improvements to Oregon’s recycling system by lowering costs, protecting workers, and reducing our collective environmental impact.

We urge your support for the funding priorities listed above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Noll
City of Portland
Eric.Noll@portlandoregon.gov | 503.823.6726