



Support for HB 3229

February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Marsh and members of House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

Beyond Toxics is an Oregon environmental justice nonprofit and has served Oregonians since 2001. We represent communities of color and lower income individuals that are impacted by poor air quality and other environmental threats. We envision a society where everyone has equitable access to healthy food and clean air and water, and underserved communities are not shouldering a disproportionate burden of toxic chemical exposure.

On behalf of our thousands of members across Oregon, from Jackson County to Willowa County, I'd like to express our support for HB 3229. HB 3229 raises fees for DEQ's Title V permitting program for the first time in over 10 years. The DEQ must have the support of the legislature to do their required work under the Clean Air Act and the Cleaner Air Oregon program. Oregon Revised Statute 468A.315 requires that the agency collect permit fees that will cover their direct and indirect costs. HB 3229 will ensure that the agency can carry out their duties as required.

We support HB 3229 because collecting appropriate fees as required by statute benefits all Oregonians to achieve the shared goal of clean air. The proposed fees fall in line with what other state agencies collect to accomplish the duties of administering the Clean Air Act, such as Washington, Idaho and Alaska. The proposed fees are reasonable. The DEQ must have the staffing capacity to oversee, monitor and update Title V permits. In addition, the agency must also be funded to maintain appropriate staffing to communicate with the public about the conditions, modifications and outcomes of air quality permits. Public engagement is required by both state and federal laws. Not only is public engagement required, it is also a value for which Oregonians have repeatedly expressed support.

As an organization dedicated to the goals of environmental quality, community involvement and the betterment of public health, we urge the members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee to wholeheartedly support clean air for all Oregonians by ensuring that the agency has the ability to collect the fees they need as required by ORA 468A.315. Please vote yes on HB 3229.

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Beyond Toxics