



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Emily McIntire  
House District 56

February 27, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, and Members of the Committee,

I come before you today to raise awareness and concerns from House District 56 - and frankly from across the state – about House Bill 3229.

This bill would raise permitting costs for current businesses by 80% with the increased funding going to the Department of Environmental Quality to pay for 11 new employees. Raising the fees that these businesses already pay would net \$2,740,414.22 annually. With this increase, you could pay 45 full-time employees \$60k per year, or 30 full-time employees \$90k per year. But for 11 new full-time employees, they would be paid \$249,128.57.

In authorizing this wage increase we need to understand that we are supplying 11 people with a HIGH paying job while essentially eliminating the ability of our manufacturing companies to provide living-wage jobs for between 30-45 people, predominately in rural communities like HD 56. Is this a good use of our money? I am not aware of ANY business that would knowingly increase its fees by 80% and expect the free market to accommodate it. If we allow the raise for the DEQ in such a sudden manner, we know that businesses will either have to dramatically raise their rates or, in cases where these businesses don't have the ability to increase their rates, will be laying people off.

This is not a bill that supports our citizens or the businesses within our state that provide taxes, product sales, and living-wage jobs for our people. An 80% increase with the new ability to allow agencies to increase its permitting costs as needed puts businesses in a state of constant defense. I strongly urge you to vote no on House Bill 3229.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

*Emily McIntire*

Representative Emily McIntire  
Member  
Oregon House of Representatives