

VIRGLE J OSBORNE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 2  
DOUGLAS COUNTY



COMMITTEES:  
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Business & Labor  
Climate, Energy & Environment  
Econ Development & Small Business

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE  
900 COURT STREET NE  
SALEM, OR 97301

**Testimony against HB 3229**

February 28, 2023

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

I submit this testimony today to raise awareness and concern for the potential impacts of HB 3229.

This bill would raise permitting cost for current businesses by 80%, an astounding one-time initial increase. The increase in the fees would go to fund the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) since they have come to a shortfall in their budget. The shortfall is direct result of 1) businesses following current laws and 2) the revenue loss of some businesses due to the inability to meet the requirements imposed by Title V.

It does not make sense to take nearly 3 million dollars away from businesses to fund an organization that clearly has done a poor job of managing its own finances.

There should be no doubt, no illusion that this bill will cost jobs. Jobs that people in Oregon cannot afford to lose! The 3-million-dollar fee imposed on businesses would go mostly toward the DEQ staff of 11 new enforcement and management personnel. Doing this would make the salaries of these new personnel be \$200,000 and cost 30 to 45 jobs in the companies around the states that the fee will affect.

My district, as well as the state, needs jobs! We do not need more fees and we certainly do not need to punish our manufacturers for doing the proper thing by being in line with Title V.

The companies that will suffer from this bill are the same ones who provide crucial living wage jobs in our state.

We must not forget that inflation is still high. Families and businesses alike are feeling that pressure. Now is not the time for fee increases.

Colleagues, I respectfully urge you to not support HB 3229 in order to protect our economy, our families, and our job providers.

They are counting on us to look out for *them*, not some bureaucracy.

Thank you,

Virgle Osborne  
State Representative, House District 2

Office: 900 Court St NE H-375, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1402  
Rep.VirgleOsborne@oregonlegislature.gov