

Submitter: Peter Kokopeli

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3229

I am writing to support HB 3229 to ensure that the DEQ's current level of permitting staff be maintained. In addition, it is essential that the permit fees under Title V be increased so that DEQ can fulfill its essential functions of inspecting and permitting large industrial polluters in Oregon. Air quality in Oregon is an issue of urgent health concern to all citizens. In the Portland metro area we still suffer from sub par air quality too many days a year. Large industrial emitters, furthermore, not only contribute to poor ambient air quality they also may concentrate their impacts on local areas and put some citizens in far greater danger of developing acute health problems ranging from asthma to heart disease. Enact HB 3229 to staff and fund DEQ so that the agency can perform its appointed mission.