



TO: Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward and Sanchez and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

FR: Lisa Arkin, Executive Director
Teryn Yazdani, Staff Attorney & Climate Policy Manager

DT: March 30, 2023

RE: Written Testimony in Support of HB 5018

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward and Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Beyond Toxics, a state-wide environmental justice nonprofit, and thousands of our supporters across the state, we are writing to express our strong support of HB 5018. Beyond Toxics has been an active public interest participant in policy decisions related to public well-being for over twenty years. We are deeply invested in climate justice and climate policies that promote decarbonization and prioritize environmental justice principles. Further, many aspects of our work relate to a just transition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality and climate impacts for Oregon's most vulnerable populations. We, therefore, support and urge you to pass HB 5018, which will provide vital, biennial funding to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Climate change is already producing devastating impacts in Oregon, and the destruction caused by recent climate-influenced weather events and natural disasters, such as wildfires, droughts, and unprecedented heat waves, have price tags in the billions of dollars. While these events impact all Oregon families and communities, they affect our frontline communities first and worst. The effects of climate change disproportionately fall on low-income, rural, and communities of color who lack vital access to climate-resiliency resources, limiting their ability to prepare for and recover from climate-fueled disasters. These ever-worsening climate impacts across the state have made clearer than ever the need to reduce emissions and protect Oregon communities on the frontline of climate impacts.

In 2020, Beyond Toxics sat on the Climate Protection Program's (CPP) Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC). Additionally, we are engaged in community advocacy efforts supporting the Community Climate Investments Program (CCI) implementation and are part of a diverse coalition of environmental advocates defending the CPP against industry legal challenge.

We strongly support fully funding the DEQ through HB 5018 because this budget contains vital policy option packages (POP) essential to the strong implementation of the CPP. Namely, POPs 114 and 115, which support the implementation of the CPP and the Clean Fuels Program (114) and support the implementation of the CCI program (115). Further, POP 140 supports DEQ's

environmental justice coordination; this is vital funding and will allow the agency to meet its duties to promote environmental justice practices as a state natural resource agency.¹

Additionally, POP 110 supports the implementation of Title V of the federal Clean Air Act, which regulates emissions from the largest sources of air pollution. Beyond Toxics has also been involved in the creation and implementation of the Cleaner Air Oregon (CAO) program. In 2017, Lisa Arkin was appointed by former Governor Brown to serve on the CAO RAC as the environmental representative, and Lisa continues to serve on other DEQ rules advisory committees currently. Many Title V facilities emit some of the worst pollutants in our state and are often placed in environmental justice communities. Fully funding a strong budget for the DEQ will allow continued work through the CAO and better protections for Oregon's and essential resources of our waters, air, and lands.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your time. **Please support and pass HB 5018 for Oregon's air, climate, and communities.**

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin
Executive Director, Beyond Toxics

Teryn Yazdani
Staff Attorney & Climate Policy Manager, Beyond Toxics

¹ Under ORS 182.545(1), state natural resource agencies, when making agency decisions, shall "consider the effects of the action on environmental justice issues."