



Good afternoon, Chair Dembrow, Chair Pham, and members of the committee:

My name is Steve Dietrich, I am the Executive Director of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) in Lane County, Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on two important pieces of legislation: Policy Option Package 116 and House Bill 3229. Both are critical for Oregon and Lane County's environmental health.

POP 116 increases the DEQ's budget to support LRAPA in addressing the growing wildfire smoke issue in Lane County. Parts of Lane County experienced 37 days of unhealthy air quality due to wildfires in 2022, it is essential that LRAPA has the resources necessary to protect public health and communicate air quality impacts from wildfires, and work to secure federal dollars for wildfire mitigation and smoke-related projects. I ask you to support Lane County communities by including POP 116 in DEQ's legislatively adopted budget.

I would also like to share LRAPA's interest in House Bill 3229, which is crucial for maintaining the Title V program that regulates the largest, most complex industrial facilities and air pollution emitters. Without the passage of this bill, both LRAPA and DEQ face budgetary shortfalls, which may lead to delayed inspections, unknown air violations, and increased health risks for Oregonians.

On the extreme end of possibilities, by not passing some version of House Bill 3229, it may result in the EPA revoking Oregon's authority to administer the Title V program. EPA would then be faced with the task of administering the Title V program in Oregon, which could include issuing permits, establishing a fee structure to cover costs, and decide on enforcement outcomes for noncompliant facilities. The EPA would also have the authority to reduce other federal funding from Oregon, such as federal highway funds.

It is in the best interest of all Oregonians, including regulated industry, that Oregon avoids losing Title V program delegation.

The Oregon Legislature is responsible for increasing Title V fees to adequately fund the Title V Program, which has not happened since 2011. House Bill 3229 will prevent repeating a delay in necessary fee increases by granting authority to the Environmental Quality Commission to raise fees more frequently, resulting in smaller increments.

In conclusion, I request you to include POP 116 in DEQ's Legislatively Adopted budget as well as pass House Bill 3229. These pieces of legislation will enable LRAPA to continue its vital work in protecting public health and the environment while preserving Oregon's authority over the Title V program. Let's work together to ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for the great state of Oregon.

Thank you.