

Senator,

In response to your request related to SB 355, here are some key bullet points and a few attachments that could be interesting/illuminating:

- Removing slash, woody fuels and waste biomass contributes unwanted particulate emissions. Open pile burning also presents risks of smoke intrusion and escaped fires.
- ACIs reduce particulate emissions by 85% compared to open pile burning according to DEQ tests conducted in 2023
- ACIs are available in a variety of sizes and capabilities to accommodate large or small sites
- Adoption and use of ACI technology has been limited by lack of consumer awareness and prohibitive permit costs
- Oregon DEQ plans to update ACI permitting rules in summer of 2025 to align with new, less stringent, federal regulations
- Proposed grant program would enable agency to reach landowners, homeowners and renters with limited means in high fire hazard areas
- Proposed grant program aligns well with ODF's current objectives for Urban & Community Forestry, Cooperative Forest Health, and Resource Planning
- Over the last several years, the UCF team has been working statewide to build awareness about the **numerous co-benefits** of using ACIs to reduce wildfire fuels and noxious smoke from slash pile burning, to limit the spread of forest pest and pathogens, to sequester carbon and enhance soil health using biochar, and to expand opportunities for economic and workforce development
- The UCF team has built a robust Federal grant subaward program that could be readily adapted/augmented to serve the needs of this proposed grant program
- The UCF team has recently established several contracts with permitted ACI operators to conduct approximately 25 demonstration events across the state (please see attached flyer for an example)
- State air quality permits are currently very expensive (>\$35K per year) and currently appear to be one of the biggest barriers to more widespread use of ACIs; it will be important to address this issue as proposed by HB2332.

We hope this information is helpful, please don't hesitate to reach out if there are specific questions or concerns that weren't addressed.

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