

Submitter: Rosemary Pryor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3729

This bill requires no funding and if approved by the legislature would result in a 22% reduction in natural gas usage per cremation—cutting over 1300 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually in Oregon. It would improve air quality; could lower natural gas costs for crematories in Oregon, and would enhance safety for technicians. That's because the bill would simply permit Oregon's crematories to lower their operating temperature from 1800 degrees to 1600 degrees.

Oregon is the last state in the nation to require the 1800 degree temperature. All others have lowered the required temperature.

The Oregon Funeral Directors Association is collaborating with the Oregon DEQ to amend the OR Admin Rule 340-230-0201(1) to lower the temperature. However, the DEQ process for review, implementation and rulemaking will result in a significant delay—two years at least. Legislative action would make the difference.

This is a minor change to administrative rules with a major opportunity for significant environmental benefit and bipartisan support. Marc tells me there is no known opposition to HB-3729

Please support HB-3729 and move it forward for legislative action! Thank you—and thank you for your service.