

Submitter: Marc Lund
On Behalf Of: Sunset Hills Funeral Home Crematorium Cemetery
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3729

Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environmental Affairs Regarding HB-3729

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marc Lund, and I am a resident of Eugene. I own and operate funeral homes, crematories and cemeteries in Lane County, and this year marks my 30th year in the industry.

I am here today to testify in support of HB-3729, a bill that is bipartisan and requires no funding. This bill seeks to lower the required crematory operating temperatures in Oregon from 1800°F down to the national standard of 1600°F.

Making this minor change in operating temperatures will bring significant and immediate benefits to the environment and citizens of Oregon. While there are numerous benefits, there are no downsides, and there is no known opposition. It is a win for Oregon!

I will highlight a few key benefits to lowering crematory temperatures:

- **Climate Impact:** By lowering the operating temperatures required, we can reduce natural gas consumption per cremation by 22%. With over 34,000 cremations in Oregon in 2023, this would result in a reduction of more than 1,300 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, and much more savings if you include pet cremations.
- **Improved Air Quality:** Lower temperatures will result in reduced particulate matter and fewer visible emissions events, leading to better air quality for our communities.
- **Cost Savings for Consumers:** The reduction in natural gas usage will lower operational costs for crematories, this will help to keep cremation services affordable for our citizens.
- **Enhanced Employee Safety:** Crematory technicians will benefit from a safer working environment. Lower temperatures allow for better control of the cremation process, it reduces the risk of fire and heat related incidents.

In conclusion, lowering the required operating temperatures to 1600°F is a practical step for Oregon that aligns with the state's climate and environmental goals, improve air quality, reduce costs, and enhance workplace safety. I recommend this committee support HB-3729.

Thank you, Chair Lively and Members, for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Lund

Owner/Operator

Sunset Hills Funeral Home Crematorium Cemetery - Eugene

Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Home Crematorium - Cottage Grove