

Submitter: Peter Kokopeli
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Peter Kokopeli and I live in Portland.

Less than 3% of Oregon's state budget goes to the 14 state agencies working to protect our environment. Our Natural Resources agencies cannot afford any further cuts especially in a time of cutbacks at the federal level.

I urge you to protect Oregon now and fully fund state-level environmental protections.

Environmental programs have benefits that far exceed the costs of implementation. For example, studies by the US EPA found that the Acid Rain Program which regulated emissions from power plants produced health benefits forty times greater than the costs to industry to install and run scrubbers. That means that for every dollar a power plant spent on reducing air pollution forty dollars was saved in emergency room admissions, treating asthma in children and a wide range of diseases ranging from cardiovascular to diabetes. The benefits of clean air and water will pass on to every Oregonian in every part of the state.

Thank you,
Peter Kokopeli