

Submitter: cliff mitchell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4102

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: Oppose HB 4102

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB 4102 as currently written. This proposal will allow the fox in the hen house.

This bill fundamentally shifts Oregon's permitting system in a direction that benefits regulated industries while weakening public oversight. By expanding third-party permitting without enforceable guardrails, HB 4102 makes it easier for polluters to obtain permits and harder for communities to understand, challenge, or ensure compliance with those decisions.

The path forward here is clear: public health, environmental protection, and worker standards cannot be compromised in the name of speed. Efficiency is not neutral if it reduces transparency or limits accountability. Without clear selection criteria, strong oversight, and skilled labor protections, this bill moves authority away from public institutions and into systems that are less transparent and harder to challenge.

We should reject the choice between economic development and environmental integrity. Oregon can invest in strengthening public agencies and improving timelines without privatizing core regulatory functions.

As written, HB 4102 moves us in the wrong direction. I respectfully urge you to oppose it unless meaningful, enforceable amendments are adopted.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Clifford C. Mitchell