

Submitter: SUSAN APPLEGATE
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4102

I oppose allowing a third party, private company from entering into contracted agreements to oversee or inspect DEQ requirements for permits. Allowing DEQ to hire private contractors to process pollution permits to increase efficiency is absurd. This is a waste of my tax dollars. The money DEQ would spend on an outside contractor is more than an in-department workforce could do. And, if it is less, then the company contracted to issue permits lack the substantial understanding of the regulations and requirements. In this bill there is no third-party selection criteria and oversight mechanism. This is like an invitation to graft and corruption. In other words: Without enforceable guardrails in place, this bill opens the door to less accountability, conflicts of interest, and inequitable outcomes that hurt Oregonians. This bill should not move forward but head straight to the garbage can.