

I oppose HB 4102

- This bill allows applicants, permittees, or regulated entities to pay the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to expedite or enhance regulatory processes, which could create inequities. Entities with greater financial resources may gain faster regulatory approval, potentially disadvantaging smaller organizations or those with fewer funds.
- Although the bill specifies that the department cannot waive its core obligations or alter requirements for applicants, there is a risk that the prioritization of expedited processes could inadvertently affect the overall fairness and/or quality of regulatory outcomes.
- The bill mandates the **DEQ** to enter into agreements under certain conditions, which may pressure the department to allocate resources away from other important regulatory activities.
- There is a potential for reduced transparency, as information made available online must be redacted to exclude trade secrets or confidential business information. This could limit public oversight of expedited agreements and third-party contractors.
- The bill also allows for hiring of additional staff or contracting of third-party services, which might lead to inconsistencies in regulatory decisions and oversight if external contractors are not held to the same standards as DEQ staff.