



February 16, 2026

**Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

Support for HB 4102: DEQ Permitting Reform

Chair Sollman and members of the Committee,

My name is Brittany Quick-Warner, and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce and ONWARD Eugene, our region's economic development organization serving Lane County and the Southern Willamette Valley. Together, we represent a broad cross-section of employers, traded-sector industries, small businesses, and community partners working to strengthen Oregon's economy through responsible growth, innovation, and job creation.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 4102.

Across Oregon and particularly in regions seeking to attract and retain investment, predictability and timeliness in regulatory processes are essential. Businesses consistently report that delays in Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitting create uncertainty that affects financing, hiring decisions, construction timelines, and overall project feasibility. While environmental protections remain critically important, the current permitting timelines can unintentionally create barriers to responsible development and infrastructure investment.

HB 4102 provides a thoughtful and balanced solution. The bill allows DEQ to enter into agreements that enable applicants or regulated entities to fund additional staffing resources to expedite or enhance the regulatory process, while maintaining appropriate public-interest safeguards and agency oversight. By authorizing DEQ to utilize agreement-based funding to hire additional staff or contract for services, the measure creates a practical mechanism to reduce permit backlogs and improve processing efficiency without diverting existing agency resources.

Importantly, the measure does not weaken environmental standards or reduce regulatory scrutiny. Instead, it improves process management by establishing clearer timelines and requiring DEQ to evaluate requests and respond within defined parameters. This approach maintains environmental integrity while providing greater certainty for applicants seeking to comply with Oregon's regulatory framework.

For regions like Lane County, this policy has meaningful implications. Projects requiring DEQ permits often represent significant economic drivers, supporting traded-sector growth, infrastructure expansion, and community investment. Delays in processing can slow or stall projects that create family-wage jobs, generate property tax revenue, and contribute to local



economic resilience. As Oregon continues to face competitive pressures from neighboring states, improving regulatory predictability is an important step toward ensuring that businesses can move forward responsibly within Oregon rather than looking elsewhere.

Through initiatives such as the Southern Willamette Valley innovation corridor and the ongoing development of industrial and employment lands, our region is working to expand economic opportunity while meeting environmental standards. HB 4102 aligns with these goals by offering a pragmatic, voluntary tool that supports efficient agency operations and collaborative problem-solving between regulators and regulated entities.

We also believe this measure reflects an important principle: that improving efficiency within existing regulatory systems benefits both environmental outcomes and economic development. Faster, more predictable permitting helps projects move forward with clearer expectations, encourages compliance, and supports timely implementation of environmental safeguards.

For these reasons, the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce and ONWARD Eugene respectfully request your support for HB 4102.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to strengthening Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Quick-Warner".

Brittany Quick-Warner
President & CEO
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce