



Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County Chair

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To Chair Jules Bailey and members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

This letter is to advocate for passage of House Bill 2336, given approval of amended language clarifying what I believe to be the original intention of the bill.

The principles behind this bill are very much in line with Multnomah County's values. Through increased community involvement and formal analyses of toxic air emission reduction strategies, House Bill 2336 has the potential to reduce toxic air emissions in our community. Furthermore, it levels the playing field by ensuring that all communities have early access to the information needed to both understand and advocate for cleaner air. I applaud the work of the community advocates behind this bill.

However, the bill in its current form says (line 29) the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality must disclose permit applications to "local governing bodies" - no definition. Locally, that would pertain to the cities of Portland, Gresham, Fairview and Wood Village, Multnomah County or Metro. But this bill isn't just for our local community – it must apply easily across the state, especially in areas of the state with limited local government. An amendment requiring that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality disclose those records directly to the public at the time they receive the permit application would remedy this problem.

I support this clarifying amendment, and the subsequent passage of House Bill 2336.

Sincerely,

Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen