



Neighbors for Clean Air  
[www.whatsinourair.org](http://www.whatsinourair.org)

Co-chair Devlin, Co-chair Rayfield, and Subcommittee members,

Neighbors for Clean Air supports the full funding of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Even the best laws and regulations are inadequate without sufficient resources to investigate, monitor, or implement. The laws and regulations that DEQ implements are intended to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Oregonians, making full implementation of them vital to a healthy, prosperous Oregon. The budget for DEQ is as important as the laws it implements or the regulations approved by the Environmental Quality Commission.

Understanding and documenting the continued threat from the presence of hazardous air pollutants is important and Neighbors for Clean Air supports Package #111 that continues the air toxics monitoring that has begun in North Portland. In addition to approving this funding, Neighbors for Clean Air urges the committee to consider ways that it can improve on how this kind of air monitoring is conducted. In many of DEQ's other programs, they work closely with researchers throughout the state to develop and implement monitoring programs. Oregon has a wealth of researchers and scientists with experience in air quality monitoring. We suggest that the committee explore ways that it can strengthen Package #111 by directing DEQ to consider using those funds to partner with outside researchers and scientists to conduct this air toxics monitoring.

The full funding of DEQ's air quality program is especially vital during this biennium. During this budget cycle, DEQ will be required to revisit and evaluate the three year progress of its first local air toxics reduction plan, the Portland Air Toxics Solutions (PATS). PATS confirmed that air toxics in the Portland Metro area are above health-based ambient benchmark concentrations. DEQ will need adequate resources to evaluate any progress that has been made on reducing these pollutants and consider and develop any modifications that are needed to the local air toxics reduction plan. While DEQ has not proposed any specific funding package for these activities, Neighbors for Clean Air believes that full funding of DEQ will be essentially for the agency to complete these required actions.

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