



March 13, 2017

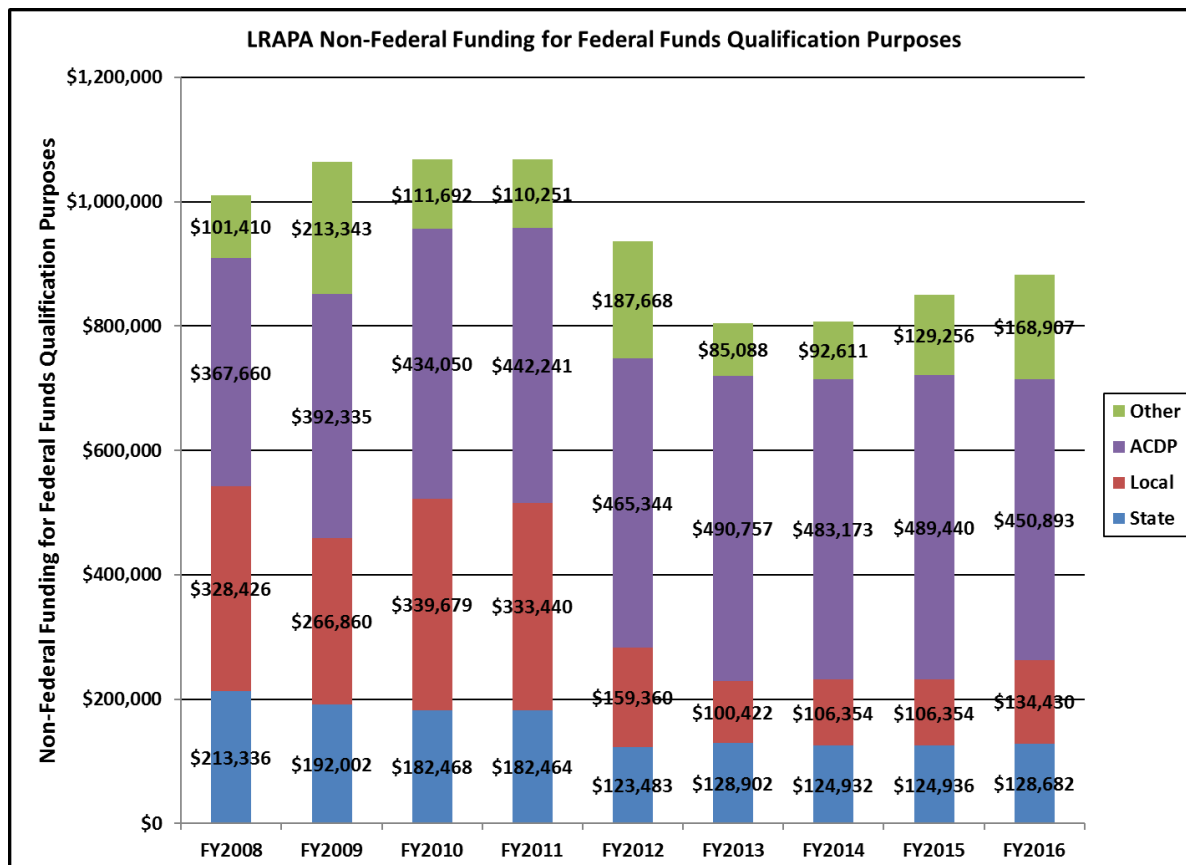
Sen. Lew Frederick and Rep. Brad Witt, Co-Chairs, Natural Resources Subcommittee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Budget of DEQ and LRAPA in SB 5518

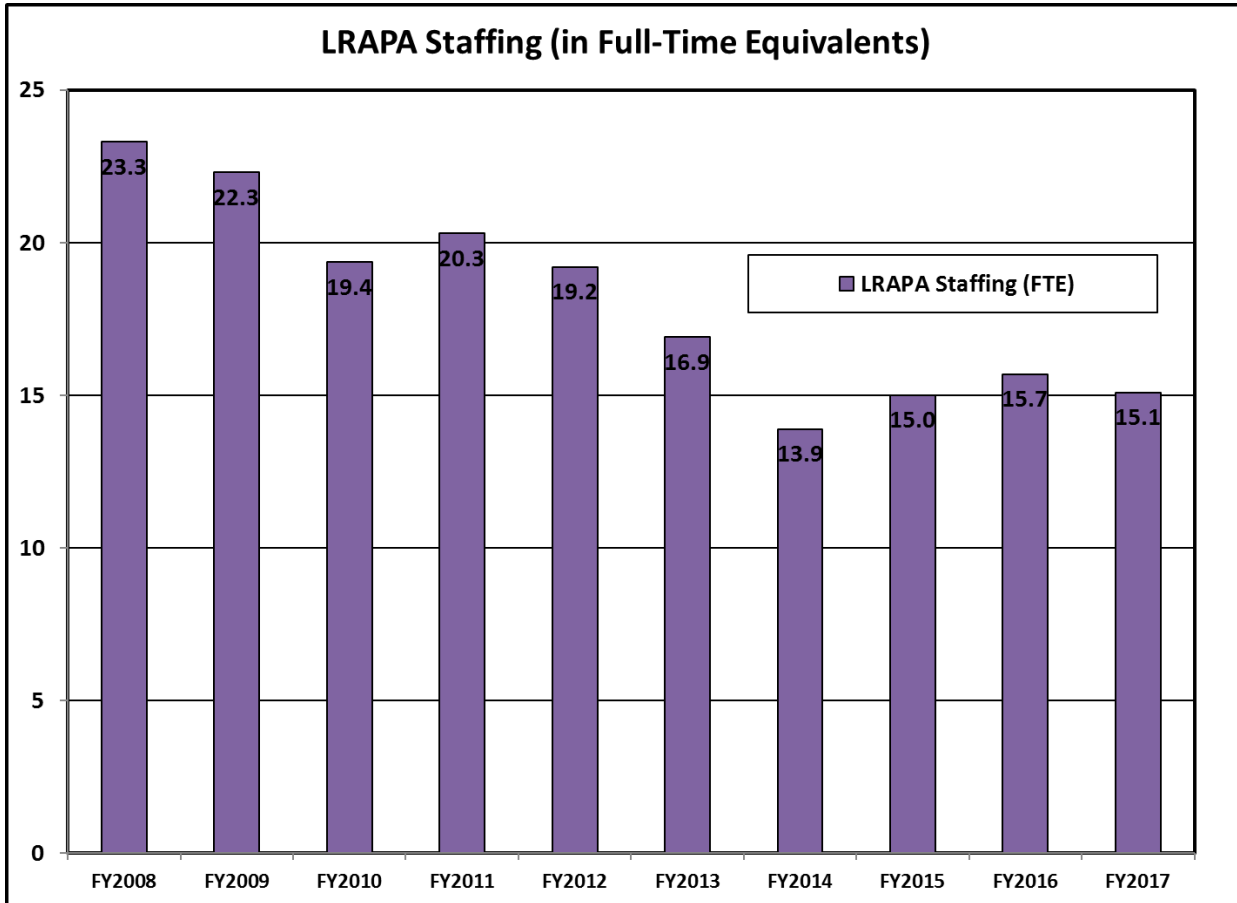
Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Witt and Subcommittee:

My name is Merlyn Hough, and I am the Director of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) in Lane County, Oregon. LRAPA is a regional air authority formed in 1968 under ORS 468A.100, and our portion of the state budget is included within that of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Senate Bill 5518. I am here to highlight the two budget issues of critical concern to LRAPA.

First, LRAPA has a major concern with the proposed 10% reduction (\$26,689) in state general funding (GF) to LRAPA in Senate Bill 5518. As a regional authority, LRAPA would be at risk, because of local-state-federal match requirements, of losing up to four times this amount (\$106,756). LRAPA has already experienced a 40% reduction in state general funding since 2008 which has contributed to reduced local funding and put our federal funding at risk as illustrated in the following graph:



The 40% reduction in state general funding (from \$213,336 in FY2008 to \$128,682 in FY2016), combined with other related reductions, has reduced LRAPA staffing by 35% between 2008 and 2016:



This 35% reduction in LRAPA staffing (from 23.3 FTE in FY2008 to 15.1 FTE in FY2016) is much greater than that of our local partners (cities and Lane County) or state partner (ODEQ) or federal partner (EPA).

Second, LRAPA has a special interest in the GF portion (\$130,529) for DEQ to implement Cleaner Air Oregon (part of POP #116 in SB 5518). LRAPA has to be at least as stringent as state requirements. Our need is about 18% (\$23,495) of DEQ's. We can increase ACDP fees ("Other Funds") like DEQ, but also like DEQ we need GF to fully fill the gap.

Thank you for this opportunity for input. Please let me know if you need any additional supporting information.

Sincerely,

Merlyn L. Hough, Director
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency
Merlyn@LRAPA.org