

**March 18, 2017**

**RE: HB 2669**

Dear Representatives of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Living in Southern Oregon, I'm aware that most of the attention goes to Portland when it comes to addressing unhealthy air quality. When the public discovered that neighborhoods in south and north areas of East Portland were being showered with heavy metals from art glass factories, the media latched on to the story. Neighborhood clean air groups formed. Governor Brown even issued a cease and desist order to put a stop to the dangerous chemicals that were threatening the health of nearby neighbors, including preschool and school children.

Far less attention is paid to communities in Klamath, Lake, Jackson and other more rural areas. We don't have the attention of the media, the Governor or state agencies in the same way as urban centers. Nonetheless, we too are Oregonians exposed to unhealthy toxic chemicals in our air and water. We too have industrial polluters.

Rural communities have to be their own public health watchdogs. That is why I strongly support HB 2669. By passing this bill, smaller rural communities may have the opportunity to enact a toxics reporting and community right to know program. This is the best way for a community to understand potential or real threats to their health. Prepared with good data, we can then do our best job participating in civic activities to improve the health in our more remote geographic locations.

**The two most important aspects of HB 2669 are:**

- **Materials balancing:** This requires a polluter to account for all inputs and the fate of all toxic chemicals to air, water, waste disposal and land. Knowing the full extent of chemicals going into our environment is really the only way to protect public health.
- **Public accessibility:** To do our civic duty, we need all the data we can get to provide public oversight. Based on what happened in Portland, it seems like our state environmental agency doesn't have a handle on environmental pollution. We shouldn't have to file a public records request with agencies that are having trouble just keeping track of pollution permits. A community right to know program takes advantage of modern technology to inform the public.

For the sake of communities all over Oregon who want to know what pollution may impact their family's health and the wellbeing of their local communities, I ask you to pass HB 2669.

In light of the Trump administration's pulling back on and even reversing environmental priorities in the United States, I'd like to see Oregon set an example, to be a leader of environmental stewardship.

Thank you for doing the right thing.

Cheers,

Kenda Swartz

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