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From: Susan Katz <susanfkatz@gmail.com>
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To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility Letter of Support for HB 2669

Letter of support for HB 2669

Oregon PSR is committed to fighting the most serious threats to human and ecological health.

We support HB 2669 as a part of the creative reform of air toxics standards in Oregon. It plays a different role than the Cleaner Air Oregon regulatory reform program that is already in process for air toxics emitted by permitted industrial facilities, in that it applies to smaller facilities which may not require permits for air or water emissions because their weight or volume of emissions is smaller than regulatory standards, and it deals with both air and water and soil. There is a false dichotomy in separating toxic emissions in all of these media, which is apparently based on the separate Federal Acts, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

For the purposes of health this is a completely specious division. We receive our daily dosage of toxicants from the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, (grown from soil which may contain unhealthy levels of toxicants such as pesticides, heavy metals, Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons, Dioxins etc). We also absorb some toxicants through our skin. That is why it is so important to have total disclosure of where these known toxicants go, so that we do not have to be ignorant of the many sources of “small” pollutants, which may add up to a large and significant health problem.

We need to know what is in our multiple toxic environments, and we need air and water regulators to talk to each other. This very simple bill will begin this process.

It is important to have the inventories mandated by the bill, because we believe strongly, based on accumulating evidence of large prospective epidemiologic studies, that there will be need to lower all our current standards over time. This, will be because there is emerging evidence of very low dose effects, previously not considered in standard toxicology. As we consolidate evidence we will require new toxicologic work to incorporate this evidence of very low dose non cancer health impacts of known toxicants. These will probably be due to biomonitoring and understanding endocrine disrupting mechanisms, or epigenetic mechanisms that are not currently being employed in “Classic Toxicology”, in our opinion.

So we add our voice to remind everyone that our understanding of what is healthy or not healthy is not static, but changes significantly over time. We need to know what is in our increasingly polluted environment and in our increasingly polluted bodies, all over the world. The evidence is accumulating everywhere and there are no borders for air and water.

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Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility