

Smith Holly

From: Evan Shenkin <eshenkin@uoregon.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:44 AM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Comment in support of HB 2669

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Evan Shenkin. I am a Toxics Board Member on the City of Eugene's Toxic Right to Know Program and a lifelong resident of Eugene. This testimony is informed by my time on the board but I am speaking on behalf of myself and not the board.

I want to strongly urge the committee to support HB 2669. This bill is a necessary part of our state's mandate to protect Oregon residents and is crucial for monitoring harmful toxins in our communities at a time when the EPA is being systematically dismantled. This bill will allow toxics programs the ability to monitor harmful pollutants throughout the state and avoid costly human and environmental threats before they escalate financially and in terms of human and environmental health.

The toxic lead levels in Portland from glass manufacture will continue to impact community members, many of them children, for years to come, cost tax payer dollars, and result in many irreversible health impacts now and in the future. Expensive efforts for clean up are also bad for the city's reputation nationwide and degrade community trust in governance.

If Portland had a toxic program like Eugene's Toxics Right to Know Program, Portland would likely have been able to address the problem early on through the public's access to information on toxic releases - including lead. HB 2669 is ethically the right way to support human health and is cheaper than clean up because it can prevent toxic problems before they become liabilities throughout our state.

The bill is good for the long-term health of Oregon residents and for future generations. A majority of Eugene residents voted to create the Toxics Program in 1996, which has 3 industry representatives, 3 citizen representatives, and 1 neutral member and has been a model bi-partisan, collaborative board balancing the interests of industry and community to find ways to report toxics in our shared environment.

I urge my representatives to support HB 2669 as a non-partisan effort to safeguard our health and safety by providing information to the public about levels of toxins in our air and water.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Sincerely,

Evan Shenkin

Doctoral candidate .

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