



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT STREET NE
SALEM, OREGON 97301

March 20th, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Helm and members of House Committee on Energy and Environment,

As a Co-Chief Sponsor of House Bill 2669, I offer my strong support for this legislation, which makes important updates to the Community Right to Know Regulatory (CR2K) and Protection Act to improve availability of toxics reporting programs to local governments and municipalities.

As State Senator for Senate District 21 – which includes the Southeast Portland, a portion of Northeast Portland, the City of Milwaukie, and the community of Oak Grove – I have the benefit of representing an active and engaged constituency with strong environmental values. As information came to light about the status of our air quality last year, our community sprung to action by creating community groups, taking on research, engaging neighbors, and collaborating with their elected officials. My community, and many across Oregon, have shared their concerns about the health of citizens, especially vulnerable communities, as well as a desire to learn more about what pollutants are in our air and water, and where they are coming from.

By expanding the availability of the Community Right to Know Regulatory and Protection Act we give local governments and municipalities an improved ability to respond to their communities' call for greater access to information and accountability of polluters. Localities and the state will also benefit as toxics reporting programs are adopted as we will have substantially more data on pollutants that may affect our communities. I appreciate the hard work that Beyond Toxics, East Portland Air Coalition, South Portland Air Quality, and many engaged community groups and individuals have put in to rally support for HB 2669 and for any steps to improve our environment for all who live here. Chair Helm, and members of the committee, I urge your support for HB 2669 and for affirming our local communities' right to know.

With respect,

Kathleen Taylor