

From: Kenda Swartz
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 995 Letter of Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017 7:41:09 PM

March 23, 2017

RE: SB 995

Dear Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,
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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 SB 995. 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.

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 SB 995.

In light of the Trump administration's pulling back on and even worse, 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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Kenda Swartz Pepper

“And then the day came
when the risk to remain tight in a bud
was more painful than
the risk it took to blossom.”

~Anaïs Nin

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