

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

**I support Senate Bill 995** because "What you don't know CAN hurt you".

I am a Vietnam War veteran; and during the War, unknown to me, I was exposed to a horrific poison called dioxin in Agent Orange. Ignorance of my exposure to dioxin did not prevent it from causing me to have a tumor grow on my back, develop asthma, and experience negative effects on my digestive system. Those effects were all too real and had a profound effect on my life.

Because of my experience and because many of us already carry the burden of previous exposures, I know we need data. Even as I write this, dioxin as well as many other toxins that have short-term or bioaccumulative effects are being emitted from smokestacks or washed into our soil and waterways right here in Oregon. As toxic emissions from Portland art glass factories amply demonstrated last year, we often don't know the source of toxic emissions, much less the amounts. We can't even begin to answer questions about their dispersion nor health effects because we don't have adequate data.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has inadequate resources to monitor the air throughout the State on a continuous basis. Senate Bill 995 could make more efficient use of DEQ's scarce resources by helping that agency zero in on potential toxic emission sources. Citizens have an intense interest in knowing what might be harmful in the air that they and their children are breathing. Implementing Senate Bill 995 will go a long way toward giving them a data base where they can find out. It will also help DEQ focus their efforts to the greatest effect.

I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 995.

Carroll D. Johnston  
1747 Sonya Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97317-8913  
Telephone: 503-364-1394