



## ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: May 2, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: HB 2748A, relating to the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund

Dear Chairman Dembrow and members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners adopted a series of priorities in advance of the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. One of those priorities was to ensure interim work on woodsmoke issues resulted in positive outcomes for the city of Oakridge. HB 2748A is one of two measures we continue to follow, and we ask that you review and adopt the -A4 amendment into this measure.

The bill which passed the House established a woodstove rebate program as an allowable use of the Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund, managed by the Department of Environmental Quality. While we are not opposed to that expansion of use of the fund, the wood smoke mitigation work that is being undertaken in Oakridge has not relied solely on replacing wood stoves. The -A4 amendment allows an additional use of the fund to include programs which make dry wood or cleaner fuel available to communities, and this is consistent with elements of the interim work group formed during the 2015 Legislature. Dry wood is key to mitigation efforts in Oakridge as the community has a number of residences whose sole source of heat during the winter months is wood. Dry wood combusts more thoroughly than non-aged or rain soaked wood, and the community of Oakridge has documented success with a community dry firewood program. The -A4 amendment, if funding were to be added to the Fund, would allow Oakridge to sustain that program in advance of the next heating season.

The issue in Oakridge affects every part of Lane County. A nonattainment area is a federal designation given to an area not meeting one or more National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The designation process provides opportunity for local and state negotiation with the EPA to best determine the appropriate nonattainment boundary. In the boundary determination, EPA considers factors such as locations and concentrations of industrial sources, county population density and traffic and commuting patterns. Most often an area includes its entire metropolitan statistical area. Lane County comprises the Eugene, OR metropolitan statistical area (MSA). It is the third largest MSA in Oregon and the 144<sup>th</sup> largest in the country.

Thus, the county-wide nonattainment designation has a series of consequences. It impacts our county health rankings, and has indirect impacts on our ability to foster economic development activities. Industrial facilities could be required to install pollution control equipment, take limits on their production, or otherwise find reductions in emissions by “offsetting” in order to expand.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY