

Re: Support of HB 2269 A

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Witt and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

I'm writing in support of HB 2269 A. We have been suffering from polluted air far too long and it's time for the Oregon Legislature to step up and act like the grown up in the room. 2269 A would allow the DEQ to do it's job - and after a year of intense shake ups, it's ready to do a very good job.

Industry, of course, wants to gut this bill, and any other bill that would get in the way of short-sighted, single-minded pursuit of profit for the few. I have been in several hearings and personally heard the paid lobby for AOI, feign misunderstanding and spread untruths just to make sure that their bosses are never held responsible for the damage they are causing to human health and the environment. It has been clearly shown that a poisoned environment drags down the economy for all, while cleaning up the environment produces economic gain with new jobs and less health care expense.

2269 A applies to Title V polluters, which are not the mom and pop operations that add so much more to our economy than the international corporations. Title V polluters can easily afford to pay a little more in fees. The supplemental fee to fund the DEQ is a necessary part of becoming a mature and functioning society. A robust DEQ with real enforcement power will help us to avoid nightmare scenarios such as what is happening in West Virginia. Decades of under-regulated coal mining have left a poisoned and scared landscape, and an impoverished population suffering from industry caused diseases.

2269 A also seems to ensure that some of the VW settlement money would go to commonsense solutions like diesel engine replacement. Again, paying attention to human and environmental health now, will save us huge amounts of money in the near future. Be the grown up in the room. Resist the urge to pander to corporate greed and vote for a clean Oregon. Whether we live in Coos Bay, Paisley, The Dalles, or Baker City, we are all Oregonians and we all need clean air.

Thank you,

Laura Berg
4017 SE Filbert St.
Milwaukie, OR 97222