

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

May 11, 2017

Co-Chairs Frederick and Witt and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned individuals and organizations strongly support HB 2269 and urge you to support it, as well. When Cleaner Air Oregon was created in 2016, Governor Brown intended to assess current rules, gather expert and community input, finalize new health-protective regulations and, importantly, implement them.

This bill, and the modest and necessary fee increases it imposes on stationary air pollution source permittees, represents a critical step towards successful implementation of the health-protective air toxics rules presently under development by the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

For far too long, communities across the state have been forced to bear the very real health risks and costs imposed on them by the lack of an adequate air toxics regulatory program.

Cleaner Air Oregon will establish a regulatory framework within which public health risks will be identified and, when necessary, reduced. It is fair that the sources placing communities at risk of harm play a greater role in funding the effort necessary to reduce those harms than they have historically been asked to play.

We strongly support adequately funding Oregon's state agencies in their work to protect public health and the environment. In an era of likely reduced federal support, this funding has never been more critical. Thank you for considering our support for HB 2269.

Sincerely,

Mary Peveto, President, Neighbors for Clean Air
Mark Riskedahl, Executive Director, Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Maggie Tallmadge, Coalition of Communities of Color
Dr. Susan Katz, Pediatrician, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Lisa Arkin, Beyond Toxics
Stacey Schroeder-Moultrie, North Portland Air Quality
Lenny Dee, Onward Oregon
Melanie Place, Clean Corvallis Air
Michelle Keip, Clean Air Grants Pass
Sarah Clark, South Portland Air Quality