

**RE: HB 2269 A**  
**Public testimony for May 11, 2015**

Dear Senator Fredrick and Representative Witt,

I am writing to you in strong support of House Bill 2269 A – Air Quality. As a resident of Southeast Portland, I am very concerned about toxic air pollution in Oregon. Legislators and the DEQ have known for a long time that Oregon has an air pollution problem. For far too long, industry representatives have been able to dictate lax pollution regulations in our State. The lack of health based environmental regulations have resulted in unacceptable levels of pollutants in our air, soil, and water. For instance, less than a mile from where I live, air monitors at the Springwater Trail have found high levels of nickel (over 3.4 times above benchmark) and hexavalent chromium (over 4.1 times above the benchmark), both potent carcinogens. It should be mentioned that these concentrations were found *after* pollution controls were put in place by Precision Castparts. Thus, prior to 2016, neighborhood exposure to these heavy metals were likely much higher. Oregon can no longer adopt environmental policies that are a reflection of the interests of industry representatives while dismissing the potential impact pollution is having on the health of residents living near industrial sources. The public has lost faith in the DEQ and its government to protect them from hazardous pollution. The time is now for the Oregon Legislature to do the right thing and prioritize the health of its residents over industry profits by requiring that regulations be updated to health-based standards. It is essential that the DEQ have the resources necessary to implement a new health-based regulatory framework and to adequately monitor pollution sources in order to promote healthy communities. As a resident of Oregon, I urge the Legislature to pass HB 2269 in its current form.

Sincerely,  
Vivian Christensen  
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