

May 11, 2017

For the record, my name is Greg Thelen. Co-chairs Frederick and Witt and members of the Committee, I am here today in support of House bill 2269-A. I am a native Oregonian and not being paid to be here. I am concerned citizen who is asking you to do the right thing by supporting the Governor and the DEQ in their efforts to make our air healthier to breathe.

We need Cleaner Air Oregon and the science and health based standards and regulations it is now formulating. And we need you to ask polluters in Oregon to pay for it. Not small businesses. Not the mom and pops. As I understand it, this bill is written so that only some of the largest polluters will fund this regulatory process. As they should.

It is well documented that the costs paid by industry in cleaning up industrial processes to reduce emissions are far outweighed by the dollar benefits to the state through reduced health care costs and worker productivity, not to mention increased life span and quality of life. Unfortunately, these are factors that are not considered by industries if they are focused on short term profits.

I have closely followed the CAO rule making process from the beginning, and have seen paid lobbyists and industry representatives resist health based standards and regulations all along the way. This resistance is not new. It has historically been a pattern since the industrial revolution. It nearly always takes government intervention for the public good to be recognized and taken care of.

This is a time when you, our elected representatives are being asked by the Governor and health and science professionals to act for the public good, not for the financial interests of companies who make a profit while polluting our air. I am asking you to please do the right thing for your fellow citizens. Please support HB 2269-A.

Thank you,

Greg Thelen