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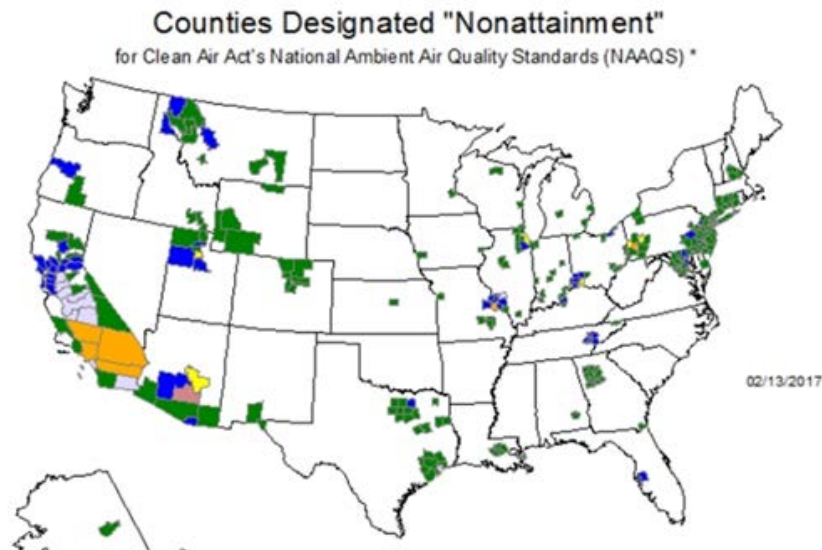
DATE: June 15, 2017
TO: Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Natural Resources
RE: HB 2725, relating to wood smoke pollution

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick, Representative Witt and members of the Committee:

The Board of Commissioners of Lane County established a legislative priority to find state funding assistance to the City of Oakridge to address a persistent air quality issue the community faces with respect to woodsmoke.

We worked extensively on HB 2748, a related policy bill that passed both chambers and the Governor has already signed. This measure provides additional flexibility around the use of an existing fund, the Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund. Notably, this fund has never received an appropriation from the Legislature. HB 2725A would remedy this, and the funding would make an impact on both public health and economic development.

Inserted below is a map of air quality impacts within the US. Note that both Lane and Klamath Counties are entirely impacted by the presence of a problem that does not exist county-wide. In Lane County the city of Oakridge “non-attainment” issue paints the entirety of Lane County, and thus the regulatory framework that comes with non-attainment, including new and existing businesses which must mitigate for air quality.



Oakridge has done an excellent job with local efforts to address their issue, but lacks sufficient resources to sustain efforts necessary to sustain what is termed “maintenance” under federal law.

Their ability to compete for the dollars in this fund will be key to climbing out of non-attainment permanently, and we urge support of HB 2725 as a result.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY