



June 28, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources

FROM: Brett Sherry, Program Manager  
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SUBJECT: SB 871A, Lead-based Paint in Demolitions

Co-Chairs Frederick and Witt, and members of the committee; my name is Brett Sherry, and I'm the Program Manager of the Lead-based Paint and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs with the Oregon Health Authority. I'm here to provide testimony on the health hazards of lead-based paint with respect to residential demolitions.

Lead is a toxic metal that serves no useful purpose in the human body. Lead is particularly dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to its damaging effects. In Oregon, the leading cause of childhood lead poisoning is exposure to lead-based paint.

The Oregon Health Authority regulates specific activities that involve lead-based paint, including abatement activities and renovation, repair and painting. However, this regulatory authority does not extend to residential demolitions, creating a regulatory gap. Studies have shown that lead dust can become airborne during the demolition process and spread to surrounding properties, creating potential health hazards for neighbors.

This bill requires the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Construction Contractor's Board to develop best practices to reduce lead dust emissions during the demolition process. It allows city

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governments to adopt ordinances requiring demolition contractors to follow these best practices. Following best practices during the demolition process can reduce the amount of lead dust that is generated and protect the surrounding community from lead exposures.

I'm available as a resource to the committee if there are any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.