



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

June 15, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt and members of the Joint Sub Committee on Natural Resources:

I urge your support of HB 2725 because Oregon needs dedicated funding to reduce wood smoke emissions. While our bill requests \$1 million, I respectfully request that you consider \$500,000 in light of the budget deficit.

Oregon has two communities officially designated as non-attainment for federal air quality standards, Klamath Falls and Oakridge. Several other communities, both rural and urban, have high levels of particulate emissions, mostly due to wood smoke (e.g., Burns, Prineville, Washington County). While none of these communities lay within my district, I have been a strong advocate for better environmental and public health across our state, and I know that economic development in any part of the state helps the whole state!

The problem of excessive wood smoke is both environmental and economic. Wood smoke contains fine particles that affect the lungs as well as toxics such as benzene and formaldehyde that can lead to cancer. Excessive wood smoke also affects opportunities for economic development. In the communities where levels of particulate emissions are too high, businesses wanting to expand or relocate must undergo more extensive permitting and additional investment in pollution control equipment.

If enacted, HB 2725 would appropriate funds to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to support local programs to reduce wood smoke emissions. This funding would be available for education and outreach, replacing older woodstoves, providing homes with dry, seasoned cord wood, or expanding the use of cleaner fuels such as wood pellets or natural gas. Because the Legislature passed HB 2748 with broad bipartisan support earlier this session, funding would be prioritized for those areas of the state with greatest particulate emissions.

Over the years, funding for wood smoke reduction has been sporadic. We need a program with dedicated funding so local communities get consistent support from the state, making their efforts more effective and sustainable. With your support, HB 2725 will provide recurring resources to reduce wood smoke emissions, improving economic development and public health across the state.

Respectfully,

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer

