

From: Mysti Frost`
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony SB 1508
Date: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:18:28 AM

2/12/2018

Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Mysti Frost and I am from Cottage Grove.

As a mother of a little girl, as the caregiver for my aging father who served in the US military, as the granddaughter of my octogenarian grandmother in Cottage Grove, and as an Oregonian – I want to express my support for SB1508 to Fund DEQ's Cleaner Air Oregon Program. Those who are most vulnerable to poor health from the impacts of breathing polluted air -- that is, children, the disabled and the elderly -- need this proposed regulatory overhaul. Cleaner Air Oregon would bring Oregon up to date with 31 other states who have already passed air quality regulations that are based on health standards. I don't want my family to suffer higher risk of asthma, cancer and heart disease because Oregon has an outdated set of regulations that are long overdue for modernization.

For example, it is critical that the Oregon DEQ be allowed to set strict health standards for highly toxic chemicals such as dioxin, lead and cadmium. There is no safe level of exposure for highly toxic chemicals such as these – especially for children. Children's central nervous systems, bones and organs can be permanently harmed by even low levels of these toxic chemicals. The DEQ must be able to establish a Hazard Index of 1 (the lowest level of risk) when highly toxic chemicals are emitted by industrial sources.

I certainly hope to see the Oregon Legislature fully support the DEQ and OHA staff as they grapple with a very complex set of problems. Our elected representatives must provide the necessary funding to help Oregon step away from a woefully backwards and outdated set of existing rules, and then develop a new framework that puts public health into the regulatory equation.

I urge you to put your full backing behind SB 1508 to give our State's environment and health experts the tools they need to develop health-based regulations.

I OPPOSE SB 1541 because it strips DEQ of authority and weakens the core principle of setting health-based standards in the program.

SB 1508 is your opportunity to realize the goal of reducing toxics in our airshed and the associated risks to public health.

Oregonians deserve this level of transparency and protection. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Mysti Frost

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Mysti R. Frost

Environmental Justice Community Organizer

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