

I support full funding for Cleaner Air Oregon: pass HB 4002.

I am grateful we will finally have Cleaner Air Oregon rules to help protect all citizens of Oregon.

Over the years my life has been, in many fundamental and important ways, defined by the horrible air quality in Oregon. It took me years to figure out what was really going on. In 2003 there was very little public information accessible to lay people that explained why our air smelled so awful. Over the years I came to understand that our air stinks because we live in one of the dirtiest air-sheds in the entire country. My daughter and son attend a school ranked in the bottom 2% nationally for toxic air from sitting facilities. (Abernethy Elementary). There has been a cancer cluster investigation in my present neighborhood because so many mothers with children at Abernethy have cancer. I just attended a funeral two weeks ago for a mother of two young sons who attended Abernethy. The low toxic inventory rankings (bottom 2% nationally) for Abernethy have nothing to do with the historic exposures all these neighbors have suffered due to Bullseye Glass emissions. It has nothing to do with the fact that Oregon has the lowest diesel standards on the west coast and that we live right next door to a huge diesel rail yard.

All over Oregon citizens live in "worst case" scenarios. We have next to no protection from our DEQ. People are not suffering in abstract ways as a result. They are suffering in massive and extended ways. It is not that some people are unlucky and get cancer. Or some kids have asthma and can't handle the air. No, Oregon's terrible air quality diminishes the well-being of every single citizen to a greater or lesser degree every day. We are not only more likely to be susceptible to serious life threatening diseases we are also, all of us, more likely to catch colds, to spend more days in bed sick, to have a harder time learning (the link between cognitive impacts and pollution is now well understood, c.f. California's citing rules about roads and schools), and to be depressed (the link between mood and pollution is also well established).

Oregon is famous for planning and its dedication to a healthy environment. The fact that our air quality rules are so abysmal is an utter embarrassment.

Without full funding we will not get the changes we all deserve. Please fully fund HB 4002.

Thank you,

Alicia Cohen