

**House Committee on Energy and Environment  
February 12, 2018  
CLHO Supports HB 4002**

My name is Morgan Cowling and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO). I work with and on behalf of the 34 local public health departments in Oregon who work every day to protect and promote health within communities across Oregon. CLHO urges the support of HB 4002 because it is essential for the Cleaner Air Oregon program which protects Oregonians from cancer-causing air pollution.

Public Health Modernization aims to assure that all Oregonians have the same public health protections and identifies environmental health as a major programmatic public health area. Further, according to the County Health Rankings, the environment is responsible for ten percent of our health. This is why the CLHO finds it crucial to support the proper infrastructure for environmental programs that will protect the public's health.

The proposed Cleaner Air Oregon rules set health-based standards for reducing air pollution and give decision-makers and the public more data about pollutants emitted by facilities. The rules also give regulators new ways to identify and decrease the risk of air toxics. Without a sustainable way to fund this program, we risk losing the public health protections it set to establish. HB 4002 will authorize the Department of Environmental Quality to establish and collect fees from industrial and commercial pollution sources which will create a sustainable way of continuing the program and reducing the debilitating and deadly health impacts of air pollution.

Industrial air pollution impacts everyone in our state and Oregonians deserve to know the air in our communities is safe. Since we know that clean air is imperative to public safety the CLHO urges your support of HB 4002.

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