

From: Lisa Arkin
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 1541 mocks the democratic process
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:43:52 PM

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Technical experts, health experts, environmental justice experts, community representatives, business representatives, lobbyists, lawyers and agency staff have worked through nearly two years of an **open, democratic and transparent process** to craft what is now the Cleaner Air Oregon policy recommendations before you in SB 1508.

Cleaner Air Oregon was based on a well-planned public process. The DEQ and OHA held many public hearings to gather public comment.

The US EPA worked with communities to hold public forums and training sessions to help Oregonians learn about the Cleaner Air Oregon policy recommendations and how to submit their public comment.

As a Governor-appointed member of the Cleaner Air Oregon Policy Advisory Committee representing environmental advocates, I personally spent hundreds of hours driving to meetings, studying the materials, sitting in meetings, writing comments as a CAO RAC member and educating the public by speaking at the Portland and Eugene City Clubs and dozens of other community forums.

It is simply not the kind of democracy Oregonians value for you to submit SB 1541, an industry-backed bill that undercuts the long, highly vetted and public process of Cleaner Air Oregon. This bill was not created in a fair and balanced manner. We ask you to vote NO on SB 1541.

At the crux of the problem is that SB 1541 allows the Oregon Legislature to set allowable health risks in statute, effectively going around the public health experts and the EQC process.

Should you vote to pass 1541, your actions will initiate a loss of faith in our elected Democratic leaders and in the democratic process.

The Oregonian and the Portland Cascadia Times just ran articles about the subversion of the Cleaner Air Oregon public process. Oregonians are watching. Ask yourselves: Why should Oregonians volunteer for civic duty, serve on citizen advisory committees, help educate others and come to the Legislature to testify, if all their effort is ignored by elected legislators because of industry pressure for a backroom deal that is not crafted from science, economic and public health facts?

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin,

Cleaner Air Oregon Policy Advisory Committee Member

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