

From: Ana Molina
To: [SENRR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Subject Heading: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources - Support SB1508
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Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ana Molina and I live in Springfield, Oregon. I am the Statewide Environmental Justice Organizer for Beyond Toxics. I appreciate this opportunity to speak to you today about Cleaner Air Oregon. Beyond Toxics is a statewide environmental justice organization serving tens of thousands of Oregonians.

I support SB 1508 because I strongly believe that by supporting the implementation of Cleaner Air Oregon, we improve the health outcomes for the communities who are downwind of industrial pollution and have borne the greatest risks to health from breathing polluted air. For example, in neighborhoods downwind of wood preserving facilities, the nauseating smell of creosote emissions prevent families from holding birthday parties outside or taking their children to the public park.

The Cleaner Air Oregon rule is the beginning of something really important in environmental policy, which is creating a public health framework, based on fairness and equity, to guide policies and regulations. The sooner we recognize and address that air pollution is an environmental justice issue, the sooner we can reduce cumulative risks that cause cancer and other serious diseases.

The health impacts caused by exposure to air pollutants occur over and over again in the same areas. The pollution adds up over time. The negative health risks accumulate for multiple generations of families who raise their families in Oregon.

One way to address cumulative health risks is to involve the people who are the most impacted. That is a foundation of environmental justice. SB 1508 provides the funding to allow the DEQ and OHA to implement the **Community Engagement Plan, a part of Cleaner Air Oregon that is very important to me and the communities I work with. I urge you to support the requirement to engage frontline and downwind communities and require their meaningful input into decision-making process.**

I hope that Legislators will support and ensure adequate funding for DEQ efforts to comply with the recommended “Best Practices for Oregon’s Natural Resource Agencies” published by the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force (January 2016). Oregon’s natural resource agencies are required to acknowledge and accommodate environmental justices.

I do not support SB 1541, which would make it nearly impossible for the DEQ to comply with its duties to engage vulnerable communities. The DEQ and OHA must be given the authority and the necessary funding to do their job to ensure that children and others who could experience life-long harm from acute and chronic exposures to air toxics are not adversely impacted.

More than two dozen other states have already implemented health-based air toxics laws. In those states, there is no evidence that industry suffered and jobs were lost. Some of these states have successfully established more protective benchmarks and adopted a Polluter pays model. It is time for our state to change our old and outdated regulations and launch Cleaner Air Oregon. The public should not have to wait any longer. Please pass SB 1508.

*Thank you, Ana Molina
Springfield, Oregon*