

I am writing in support of HB 3372. My name is Jessica Applegate and I am currently serving on Governor Brown's Cleaner Air Oregon rules advisory committee for air toxics regulatory overhaul. I was poisoned in my own neighborhood for decades by Bullseye Glass. I have irreversible lung damage and illness that will last the rest of my life from this exposure and other pollution in our air. Just a few weeks ago, sitting on the CAO rules advisory zoom meeting I was appalled to learn that DEQ is still an agency with their hands tied behind their backs, even after 5 years of air toxics rules overhaul. I asked DEQ if there was a "hard stop" to pollution if a permit was violated and there were severely unhealthy levels of pollution being emitted. DEQ said they do not have the authority to deny the permit, but only to give the polluter an "immediate curtailment" plan, that upon further investigation is neither immediate nor true curtailment. DEQ must have the authority to their job and protect public health. Without passage of this bill, we are really no better off than we were 5 years ago and Governor Brown's Cleaner Air Oregon is just smoke and mirrors. You cannot have rules that are meaningful without meaningful enforcement. Please pass this bill and fulfill the mandate of Cleaner Air Oregon and give DEQ authority to do their job and enforce the rules.