

Public Testimony HB 3372
Oregon House Committee on Energy and the Environment
22 March 2021

Chair Marsh and members of the Committee,

I am writing today in full support of HB 3372. DEQ must have the immediate authority to curtail, halt, or shut down the operations of polluters who are endangering public health and the health of the environment. In other words, they must have full enforcement capabilities and the authority to fulfill their mandates.

I have been participating as an alternate for Eastside Portland Air Coalition on the Rules Advisory Committee for Cleaner Air Oregon. I attended the Technical Advisory Committee meetings for CAO, have testified before the EQC and in Salem on this issue, followed and actively supported the DEQ's work on the art glass rules since 2016 when my community first learned we had been exposed for decades to extremely high levels of unfiltered toxic heavy metals. I have lived and been a small business owner in my neighborhood not far from Bullseye Glass Co. for almost 40 years.

I have learned a lot about air quality regulation in the past five years, perhaps more than I ever needed or wanted to know. It has been clear from the outset that adequate funding, pollution regulation that centers public health, and the authority to stop bad actors are the tools that give DEQ's work real life meaning. Without these, their mission is meaningless. I have watched polluters dig their heels in, attack the DEQ & the state, generate false information about their activities, create astroturf campaigns with the help of corporate lobbyists, re-brand their companies in hope of eluding oversight. Occasionally, these companies are subsidiaries of large national corporations that do not have a home base in Oregon but are merely doing business here, not actually invested in the life, health, and livelihoods of Oregon communities.

DEQ must have real authority to enforce regulations, protect the public, close loopholes and to stop bad actors in their tracks by shutting them down.

Thank you for bringing HB 3372 into Committee and I hope you will do all you can to give DEQ the tools they need to keep our communities and families safe.

Thank you,
Katharine Salzmann
member Eastside Portland Air Coalition,
Cleaner Air Oregon Rules Advisory Committee, alternate