

The ability of companies that flaunt the rules needs to be addressed. Sometimes a company changes its name to thwart a rule. Sometimes a company changes its place of operation so proceedings to enforce regulation are delayed indefinitely. This puts DEQ in an impossible place to protect the environment, the safety of workers at a company, and the safety of the neighbors who live near a company's operations. Some companies appear to view a fine as simply a cost of operation. Rules are not put in place to be avoided by bad actors. Rules are to protect the community and to protect workers. Unless there are firm rules that can hold bad actors accountable with logical consequences that have teeth companies will continue to see them as something to work around, not comply with. Rules must be put in place that prevent simply moving to a new site or changing the name of a company. Regulations must seal an escape route that can allow a company to operate unsafely. When there is not an adequate ability for DEQ or any government agency to regulate for safety companies will not invest in safety. Companies are formed to make money, they haven't got a conscience. This is America, this is not the third world. Many companies here have been purchased by foreign companies which may not be aware that the rules do apply here. Make the laws clear, firm and unavoidably aligned with safety. Track history of any company so that it cannot make a mockery of safety rules. This bill is a good start. Thank you for sponsoring this bill.