



**OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301**

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward, Johnson, and Rayfield,

We are writing to express our support for POP #112, restoring funds for Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA). The POP is a \$260,000 General Fund expenditure to restore LRAPA's funding to pre-2008 levels.

LRAPA is the agency responsible for protecting and enhancing air quality in the southern Willamette Valley, and was formed under state statutes (ORS 468A.105) in 1968. LRAPA ensures that important decisions concerning air quality are made by people who live in Lane County.

LRAPA experienced significant cuts (-40% in state General Funds) in the mid-2000s and unlike the Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Division, LRAPA never saw restoration of these cuts, seriously limiting their ability to perform core work of protecting air quality. Of course, air quality does not care about political boundaries, and as such the work LRAPA does in Lane County impacts more than just Lane County residents.

About 7.15% of LRAPA's funding comes from state General Funds with the remainder coming from federal funds and local partner dues. General Funds are used to satisfy match requirements for federal funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and to leverage local funds provided by Lane County and the cities of Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove and Oakridge.

Oregon General Fund support is especially important for some of the most critical air quality issues facing Lane County. For example, the Eugene-Springfield and Oakridge airsheds were nonattainment areas for particulate matter in the past, and remain at risk of violating national health-based standards for particulate matter today. Failure to maintain health standards, in addition to the obvious impacts on public health, would have major negative implications for businesses planning to locate or expand in the airsheds. The most significant source of particulate emissions in the critical winter months is home wood heating. LRAPA programs to reduce emissions from woodstoves have been key to improving particulate levels in Eugene-Springfield and Oakridge. These wood smoke reduction programs depend on state General Funds revenue. Woodstove emissions are also a major source of air toxics.

LRAPA has innovated and leveraged resources to provide a comprehensive air monitoring network which Lane County residents and decision makers depend on. This is especially true during winter air stagnation episodes, and the monitoring capability proved invaluable during summer wildfire smoke which saw areas at Extreme Hazard level for many days. LRAPA has been a leader in the

expansion of low-cost particulate sensors from the coast to the mountains, Florence to Eugene-Springfield, Cottage Grove, Oakridge, and McKenzie Bridge areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request to restore funding to match air protection funding available through DEQ for the remainder of the state.



Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senate District 4



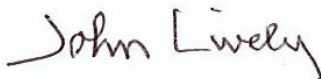
Senator Lee Beyer
Senate District 6



Senator James I Manning Jr.
Senate District 7



Representative Paul Holvey
House District 8



Representative John Lively
House District 12



Representative Nancy Nathanson
House District 13



Representative Julie Fahey
House District 14



Representative Marty Wilde
House District 11