



Health Department

February 24, 2020

House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St. NE - Remote E
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB2377 - Permits claims against insurance assets of dissolved business entities notwithstanding certain time limitations that otherwise would bar claims.

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonhoma and Grayber, and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Hamberg and I am the Interim Environmental Health Director for Multnomah County Health Department. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB2377.

Reducing the burden of toxic exposures is an important part of our job in public health, and particularly critical to the work of environmental health. One way that people can be exposed to toxic substances is through brownfields - sites known or suspected to be contaminated, which can result in exposure to toxics through soil, water, or air. For the past 3 years Multnomah County Health Department has worked with the EPA, the State, the City of Portland, and the Port of Portland to reduce exposure to toxics found in the lower Willamette, which primarily occurs through ingestion of contaminated fish. Eating these fish can damage children's brain development, cause lifelong learning disabilities, disrupt hormone and immune systems, and increase the lifelong risk of cancer.

The change in law proposed in HB2377 could enable clean up efforts like the one in Portland Harbor to be better resourced, which would provide more expedient and thorough protection from health effects of environmental contaminants. We urge your support of this bill.

We appreciate your time and dedication to this important issue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Andrea Hamberg
Interim Environmental Health Director
Multnomah County Health Department

