

Submitter: Stanley Penkin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2396

The Pearl District Neighborhood Association asks for your support of HB2396, under the Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee. We feel strongly about the progress of this bill because the World Health Organization has identified air pollution as the single greatest threat to human health globally. According to the University of Chicago Air Quality Index, Oregon is the second most polluted state in the nation.

HB2396, directs the EQC to establish an indirect source review program that implements regulations for indirect sources of pollution, which are almost entirely unregulated in Oregon. These sources include; distribution centers, marine ports, rail yards, and construction sites, and account for about 65% of the harmful air emissions in the Portland Metro area and 32% state-wide. Thus, the need for regulation of these sources is paramount.

Should this bill succeed, we believe that Oregonians will live longer, healthier lives—especially BIPOC and low-income communities who are exposed to harmful particulate matter at rates 2-3 times higher than those in white and more affluent communities. We are confident that reducing the emissions of harmful air toxics:

1. Will Reduce the risk of the three leading causes of death in Multnomah County (cancer, heart disease and respiratory illness)
2. Improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors by reducing the risk of Covid and absenteeism, as well as improving mental health and academic performance
3. Save billions every year in health care costs and lost work days
4. Reduce Oregon's contributions to global climate change

Thank you for taking the time to consider the concerns of your constituents, we hope that you will protect the health of our community and our environment and sponsor HB2396.

Stan Penkin  
President, Pearl District Neighborhood Association

[www.pearldistrict.org](http://www.pearldistrict.org)  
Facebook • Instagram • Twitter