

Submitter: Mark Labart
On Behalf Of: Biomass One LP
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB3229

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 3229. While I recognize that at times it is necessary for government to increase fees to cover increases in operating costs, I feel that this legislation imposes an undue burden on Oregon businesses. At a time when we are experiencing a failing economy with runaway inflation, supply chain issues, and an increasing tax burden, with many if not most Oregon businesses struggling to survive, it seems unreasonable to further burden these businesses with outrageous fee increases. Under the DEQ's proposed fee increase, my employer, Biomass One LP, will see its annual Title V permit fee nearly doubled, and its annual fee on air emissions increased by approximately 80 percent. IN ONE YEAR! At present the Company has not had to cut staff in order to pay these fees and its goal is to continue to provide over 75 direct family wage jobs in the community, but each time these fee and tax increases are imposed it makes it more difficult to do so. Business is the lifeblood of any economy and making it unprofitable to operate drives businesses out of state or out of business. One only needs to look to the South at California to see the resulting budget shortfall that comes from destroying the State's economy by driving tax paying businesses out.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Labart