

## **LRAPA Support of HB 3229**

- Good afternoon, Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy/Levy & members of the committee.
- My name is Steve Dietrich, I am the Executive Director of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) in Lane County, Oregon.
- LRAPA is the regional air quality authority responsible for protection of air quality in the southern Willamette Valley, and was formed under state statutes (ORS 468A.105) in 1968. LRAPA protects and improves air quality for people in Lane County, which encompasses all or part of Senate Districts 4, 5, 6, and 7, as well as House Districts 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14.
- I am speaking to you today to advocate HB 3229, to support a Title V program fee increase, and to include this increase in DEQ's Legislatively Adopted Budget, as described in POP 110. Many of my comments will reiterate points made by DEQ.
- The federal Title V program has continued to evolve since its beginning with the 1990 Clean air Act amendments. Regulated air emissions were considerably higher in the early years of the program and the fee configurations used by many states were sufficient to administer their program. While the success of the Title V program is exemplified by reductions in air pollutants and the changing number of major sources, the regulation complexities over the last 30 years has kept workload and costs high. This is not just an Oregon challenge, but a national dilemma, as annual fees paid by the largest regulated sources are often based on actual emissions.
- DEQ stated the reduction in the number of regulated sources in the last ten years from 114 to 102. LRAPA's numbers show a similar reduction, as a percentage, as 19 to 14. This decrease has a direct effect on annual emission fees.
- Other states have already been exploring and implementing new fee categories and rates to help cover their growing costs. DEQ has shared with you a fee comparison with other EPA Region 10 states and local air agencies. LRAPA uses the same fee structure as DEQ and experiences the same challenges with resources to meet program expectations and workload.
- HB 3229 describes both a short-term fee jump of \$2.8 million/yr. over the next two years and a long term plan beginning in 2025 to provide a more gradual fee increase annually by granting this authority to the EQC and to work with stakeholders. This is an example of how Oregon is exploring a new fee structure to sustain the Title V program into the future, just as other states are doing.
- I appreciate your time today and welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the importance of helping LRAPA & DEQ better serve Oregonians and achieve better air quality for everyone.

Thank you.