

Submitter: Heather Hendrixson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2332

I support this bill because I want to see more air curtain incinerators (ACIs) operating in Oregon to cleanly burn woody waste material. During my tenure as the District Manager at the Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District, we obtained a grant from DEQ to reduce particulate matter using alternative methods to open pile burning. We were able to hire one of four licensed ACI operators in the state and then worked with local orchardists in Hood River to burn tree pruning materials in the ACI instead of burning them in a burn pile. The difference in the amount of smoke was astounding. Almost no visible smoke comes from the ACI whereas burn piles make huge plumes of smoke. We wanted to be able to use the ACI more often and even make it available to locals to use instead of open pile burning. However, because licensing through DEQ is so costly and overburdensome, there aren't many operators willing to go through the process of actually getting one licensed. This bill would eliminate the requirement to get a Title V permit for ACIs, which would hopefully lead to more widespread use of ACIs to reduce particulate air pollution from burning woody waste. Thank you.