

2/3/2026

Testimony in opposition to HB 4102

House Committee on Climate Energy and Environment

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Guthman, she/her, and I am the Policy Manager at APANO a culturally-specific organization that unites Asians and the communities who stand with us to build power, develop leaders and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work, and I am submitting testimony **on behalf of APANO in opposition to House Bill 4102.**

This bill prioritizes regulatory flexibility for industries that already pollute at a time when Oregon communities need stronger environmental protections, not policies that ease compliance for major polluters.

Asian, Pacific Islander, immigrant, refugee, and other BIPOC communities face disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards due to historic and racist disinvestment in our communities. These conditions are the result of policy choices that have consistently favored industry convenience over community health. *HB 4102 continues that pattern* by authorizing the Department of Environmental Quality to enter into agreements that may streamline regulatory processes for regulated entities without clear, enforceable protections for impacted communities.

Efficiency for polluting industries too often translates into delayed enforcement, weakened oversight, and preventable harm. Communities living with unsafe air, contaminated water, and toxic exposure do not benefit from expedited processes that reduce accountability. They bear the cost when regulatory systems are designed to accommodate industry timelines rather than public health needs.

Oregon is facing escalating climate impacts and widening environmental health disparities. This moment calls for stronger standards, rigorous enforcement, and meaningful community oversight—not regulatory pathways that support big-time polluters. Frontline communities deserve protection, transparency, and a regulatory system that puts people first.

APANO urges the Legislature to **reject HB 4102** and instead advance policies that strengthen environmental protections and uphold environmental justice across Oregon.

Thank you,
Sam Guthman
APANO Communities United Fund