



Testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources on Senate Bill 5518

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports robust funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ provides critical services to Oregon's residents and businesses by implementing programs that ensure our water is safe drink, our air is clean to breathe, and that Oregon's natural resources—essential for a strong economy and quality of life—are protected.

We support the recommended Air Quality policy packages (110, 112, 113, 115 and 116) and are particularly interested in ensuring that DEQ can adequately address diesel emissions moving forward (115), especially if the federal government zeros out DERA (Diesel Emissions Reduction Act) grants. We would also advocate for inclusion of policy package 114, which would help local (primarily rural) communities address wood smoke emissions. Likewise we support full funding for Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, which does excellent work addressing wood smoke pollution among other things. We highlight diesel exhaust and wood smoke in this testimony because they pollute our air with particulate matter and air toxics. The fine particulates (PM_{2.5}) emitted by wood stoves and diesel engines:

- Cause short-term health effects: eye, nose, throat & lung irritation; coughing, sneezing, runny nose & shortness of breath
- Aggravate asthma; reduces lung function; increases rates of chronic bronchitis; increases mortality from lung cancer
- Worsen heart disease; associated with irregular heartbeat and heart attacks
- Increase respiratory & cardiovascular hospital admissions, emergency department visits and deaths

We support the recommended Water Quality policy packages (120, 125 and 181/191). Urban stormwater is a major source of water pollution, and DEQ needs to continue to be able to help municipalities implement effective strategies to reduce stormwater pollution. Adequate capacity to ensure water quality permits protect water resources, and effective allocation of funds for vital clean water projects are also essential. We also support continued funding of the Pesticide Stewardship Program as it has been extremely successful in reducing pesticide runoff and is a cost saver for landowners. We are very concerned about permanent reductions in key programs that are already significantly underfunded: toxics monitoring, groundwater assessment and setting

water quality standards to meet Clean Water Act requirements. We strongly support maintaining these programs by incorporating policy packages 121 and 122. We are also concerned about adjustments that would cut DEQ's work related to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, nonpoint source pollution on forest and agriculture lands, and water quality sampling.

We support the recommended Land Quality packages and are particularly interested in policy package 136 (the Lead Paint Task Force).

We support policy package 161 (Environmental Data Management System) which would help the agency become more streamlined and efficient in its work, and able to respond to the public and lawmakers more readily.

We would also support inclusion of policy package 134 (currently not recommended), which would help the state react to emergency situations, like oil train spills.

Ensuring a clean and healthy environment is a top priority for Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration.