



*From the Offices of Representatives Dobson, Levy and Lively*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Plan to Accelerate Environmental Reviews Unanimously Clears House With Oversight Safeguards**

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the House passed [HB 4102](#), legislation designed to improve the efficiency, transparency and responsiveness of permitting at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The bill updates state law to allow DEQ to hire qualified professionals on a temporary basis to help expedite regulatory reviews while maintaining environmental protections and public transparency requirements.

“Although the agency has made changes that will help, we’re still seeing long wait times for permits. We need to move faster, to get projects off the ground and create jobs for Oregon families.” **Rep. April Dobson** (D – Happy Valley & N Clackamas County) said. “This bill is designed to give businesses the confidence to invest in Oregon.”

“This is a win – win,” said **Rep. John Lively** (D - Springfield). “It has the ability to help businesses by accelerating the permitting process while still keeping our environmental protections.”

### What Changes with HB 4102

- **More clarity**, allowing businesses, permittees, or regulated entities to request expedited service agreements
- **More certainty**, with a 45-day response requirement and mandatory agreement after one year of denial, if applicant has a complete application and qualified contractors are available
- **More transparency**, with all agreements, decisions, and third-party contractors posted on DEQ’s website

Oregon has implemented a similar streamlined permitting process for other state agencies, including Oregon Water Resources Department (ORS 536.055).

**Rep. Emerson Levy** (D - Bend, South Redmond, Tumalo & Sisters) added, "This is an example of government working smarter and more efficiently, while protecting clean air and water in a way that Oregonians expect."

The bill now advances to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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