



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 23, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on House Bill 3229 - A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I write today to explain why I voted for House Bill 3229 -A. The bill modifies federal air quality operating permit program fees and authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to annually adjust certain federal operating permit program fees, air contaminant reporting fees, and asbestos abatement program fees.

I support the objective of protecting public health by ensuring that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) can do the work of issuing permitting fees to industrial facilities. The program is a requirement under Federal law, and we need to increase fees to ensure that public health is protected.

I had reservations about this bill, as did other members of the House, because of concerns about permit backlogs, the full process, and wanting to ensure that DEQ and industry representatives would sit down for thorough conversations.

I have received assurances from the Governor's office that DEQ will have thorough discussions with the stakeholders who are responsible for paying the fees. I commit to staying involved with the operating permit fee process to ensure that there are real conversations between DEQ and stakeholders and that DEQ reports back to the Legislature on the ways that fees imposed are fair, and look at ways to have a scale for size and conduct operation review needs as per business permit type. In addition, I will continue to advocate that we focus on the results of our efforts and on requirement compliance.

Sincerely,

Representative Susan McLain

