

Please accept this explanation of my AYE vote to confirm Amy Schlusser to the EQC.

It was a pleasure to be able to confirm the appointment of a nominee with this level of relevant and applicable knowledge to the Environmental Quality Commission. I am genuinely puzzled by the argument of opponents to this nomination—essentially that Ms. Schlusser’s staff work for a nonprofit environmental organization constituted a conflict of interest that should disqualify her.

At any given time, the governing boards of Oregon’s regulatory agencies include numbers of employees and shareholders of companies subject to their agency’s regulation. That circumstance, I submit, produces unquestionably clear conflicts of interest in the course of their service. Yet those appointments seem to be accepted without comment as a matter of course. Would it be the position of opponents to this nomination that they are fully appropriate, while Ms. Schlusser’s work as an attorney for a nonprofit advocacy group is not?

If my colleagues are interested in reform that would reduce the conflicts of interest of members of the agencies' governing bodies, I would very much like to collaborate towards that end. I believe most Oregonians would view it as a worthwhile step forward.

Jeff Golden

Senate District 3