

Subject: Public Comment in Support of Oregon's Climate Protection Program

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Commission and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Staff,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Oregon's Climate Protection Program (CPP). During the last public comment period, before the program suffered a set-back due to a legal technicality, an overwhelming 70% of commenters supported implementing a science-based and community-centered program that will ensure we meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals and deliver public health, cost-saving, and job creation benefits for all Oregonians. Most importantly, the CPP, coupled with Community Climate Investments, will help remove the obstacles facing the most vulnerable Oregonians who need to be safe, to be prepared, to be able to survive during inevitable climate-driven emergencies.

We must act to prevent the economic, environmental and health devastation caused by decades of fossil fuel pollution. These impacts are directly experienced by underserved communities. This shared responsibility includes holding greenhouse gas polluters accountable for their emissions. I join Beyond Toxics in their strong objection to the DEQ's current proposal to open a floodgate of pollution credits that will add an overabundance of compliance instruments into the CPP program. By allowing retroactive and grandfathered credits into this new phase of the CPP program - DEQ risks benefitting fossil fuel companies' bottom lines at the expense of Oregon communities most impacted by greenhouse gas pollution.

From a community perspective, it is critical that the CPP program leads to reductions in pollution emissions from large stationary industrial sources in Oregon. The DEQ risks a delay in real greenhouse gas reductions. Our communities are being made sick by breathing in the co-pollutants that foul our air, such as small particulate matter and organic compounds. These air toxics have a proven causal relationship to chronic lung diseases, cancer, heart attacks and strokes.

For these reasons, I urge the DEQ to adopt the strictest declining emissions limits. Large industrial polluters must be included and held accountable to a **stringent overall cap decline to ensure meaningful emissions reductions under the program**. A rigorous requirement for industrial facilities to meet declining emission limits is an important part of what will pave the way for upgrades like electrification, more advanced pollution control equipment and highly efficient boilers, and for innovations in cleaner, less carbon intensive manufacturing.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME (FIRST LAST)
CITY, STATE