

W. S. B.

December 23, 2008

Merlyn Hough, Director
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency
1010 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477

DRAFT

Dear Merlyn:

Thank you for your presentation to the Lane County Board of Commissioners on December 17, 2008. We appreciated your testimony, the testimony provided by Andy Ginsberg at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the public comment made prior to the meeting by Lane Regional Air Protection Agency Chair David Monk.

As you are well aware, the purpose of that meeting was for Lane County to respond to a letter we received from the City of Springfield. That letter outlined several concerns that we felt were worth exploring, including a review of governance, financial issues, and scope of work. However, as a result of our meeting, Lane County would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency. We find no reason to amend the intergovernmental agreement that establishes the basis for our support of the Agency.

We noted that Mr. Ginsberg stated that in his experience and exposure to nation-wide issues, the protection of air quality was most typically addressed through local agencies, and not under the umbrella of a statewide agency such as the Department of Environmental Quality. He also indicated that the DEQ was ill prepared to replace the work of LRAPA, even at minimum levels.

We further noted the testimony of your Board Chair, David Monk, and his expression that he'd work very hard to ensure that those Lane County residents living in the unincorporated areas of Lane County would receive greater representation on the LRAPA Board. As Commissioner Stewart indicated, these residents face a very different set of realities than urban dwellers when it comes to air quality issues.

Thank you again for providing a comprehensive packet of information to our Board, and we look forward to working with the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency in the future.

Sincerely,

Board Chair
Lane County

Cc: Gino Grimaldi, City Manager, Springfield