



ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS®

The Independent Business Voice for the Environment

www.e2.org

January 30, 2012

Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Legislator,

On behalf of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), we respectfully urge you to avoid additional funding cuts to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ has already been subjected to disproportionate budget cuts – 18.5% last session. Additional cuts would further hamper the DEQ’s ability to enforce environmental protections and work proactively with businesses.

E2 represents a national community of 850 business leaders who promote strong environmental policy to grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals who collectively manage nearly \$90 billion of venture capital and private equity. Our members have started over 1,100 businesses, which in turn have created over 500,000 jobs.

Oregon is a state that values its environmental protections, and businesses that choose to operate here thrive all the same, in part due to the DEQ which plays a vital role by consistently enforcing regulations and providing collaborative support to businesses. According to the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), for every \$1 in general fund invested in natural resource agencies, \$376 is generated in economic activity. OEC also calculated that natural resource industries generate over \$55 billion of economic activity—37% of the state’s annual domestic product. 555,000 Oregonians—more than a third of Oregon’s entire workforce—are employed in natural resource related fields or in jobs supported by those industries.

Further cuts to DEQ’s budget will negatively impact Oregon’s business environment by reducing enforcement, delaying permitting processes, and straining technical assistance services that Oregon businesses rely on. Moreover, preservation of Oregon’s natural resources is vital to the economic health of our state. The clean air and water of our region is a key reason why people choose to come here, whether as a resident, a tourist, or an entrepreneur.

We thank you for your leadership, and respectfully urge you to protect our state’s economy and environment by protecting the DEQ from further cuts.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, PACIFIC NORTHWEST
& ROCKY MOUNTAINS
111 Sutter Street, Fl 20
San Francisco, CA 94104
TEL 415 875-6100 FAX 415 875-6161

NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND
40 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011
TEL 212 727-2700 FAX 212 727-1773

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1314 Second Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
TEL 310 434-2300 FAX 310 434-2399

Sincerely,

Chris Dennett

Systems & Analytics Manager, Account Management, Regence

Doscha Jevremovic

Consultant

Grace Lee Park

Ramsey McPhillips

TAP Energy Consultants

Eric Park

Director, Ziba Design

Priya Premchandran

Sustainability Consultant, SERA Architects

Alex Wall

Director of Consulting, Discover-e Legal, LLC

Trevor Winnie

Research and Marketing Associate, Clean Edge