

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-102**

Authorizing the Office of Sustainability to Submit Written Comments on Behalf of the Multnomah County Board Regarding the Department of Environmental Quality's Cleaner Air Oregon Draft Air-Quality Rules and Affirming the County's Commitment to Taking Local Action to Protect Air Quality:

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Multnomah County serves as the community's Local Public Health Authority, and prioritizes public health in its crafting of and advocacy for policy changes.
- b. Air quality impairments caused by industrial air toxics emissions threaten public health and degrade the quality of life in Multnomah County.
- c. Clean air is vital to good health. Everyone needs to breathe and people have no control over the air they breathe outside of their homes.
- d. While many causes of death can be prevented through behavioral change, such as quitting smoking, improving outdoor air quality requires good public policy.
- e. Children are especially vulnerable to air pollution because their lungs are still in the developmental phase and they breathe, on average, 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults do.
- f. Special care must be taken to protect the health of those who are most vulnerable, including but not limited to: seniors, children, people with disabilities, and front-line environmental justice communities.
- g. The protection of public health must be the paramount mission of the Oregon Air Toxics Program.
- h. Multnomah County supports the Department of Environmental Quality's efforts to reform the regulation of air toxics to an extent that maximizes benefits to public health through the Cleaner Air Oregon program.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

- 1. To endorse the attached written comments and to give those comments the full weight of the Board's support.
- 2. To authorize the Office of Sustainability to submit the attached written comments to the Department of Environmental Quality on behalf of the Board regarding the Department of Environmental Quality's Cleaner Air Oregon draft air-quality rules.

3. To continue to explore all avenues available at the local level for protecting public health through the regulation of air toxics, up to and including the formation of a regional air quality control authority.

**ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2017.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

*Deborah Kafoury*

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Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Katherine Thomas*  
Katherine Thomas, Assistant County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** John Wasiutynski, Director, Office of Sustainability