



Oregon Senate Republicans

900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

September 23, 2022

Secretary of State Shemia Fagan
Attn: Audits Division
Public Service Building Suite 180
255 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97310

Delivered via email: audits.sos@sos.oregon.gov

Secretary Fagan,

We write to request you and your audits division perform an urgent performance audit of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). While we wish we could say only recent events have led us to make this request, the truth is much more tragic.

DEQ has long lacked accountability and is frankly a broken agency. These problems have not only persisted but grown worse. The majority party in the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, and multiple agency heads who should be holding DEQ to account have instead aggressively expanded the size, scope, and powers of this unaccountable agency.

It appears DEQ is also significantly overdue for an audit. The agency has undergone only one significant performance audit during the past decade that we could find:

- Air Quality Permitting Process Audit (2018)

No doubt you are aware that earlier this week the director of the agency [abruptly resigned](#). The agency appears poised to perform a national search for a new director without the input of a new governor who will take office in four short months. Last week, the agency continued to move forward with a rule that would ultimately ban the sale of gas-powered cars used by millions of Oregonians. Business leaders report to us that despite the 2018 audit, the Air Quality Permitting Program remains a complete mess.

Please perform a thorough audit of this agency before it can do any more damage to the environment, Oregonians, and their businesses.

Sincerely,



Senator Tim Knopp
Republican Leader



Senator Dallas Heard
District 1




Senator Dick Anderson
District 5



Senator Fred Girod
District 9



Senator Brian J. Boquist
District 12 - IPO



Senator Kim Thatcher
District 13



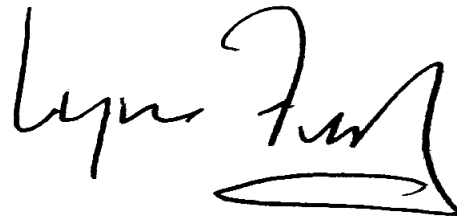
Senator Bill Kennemer
District 20



Senator Dennis Linthicum
District 28



Senator Bill Hansell
District 29



Senator Lynn Findley
District 30