



Associated Oregon Industries

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January 21, 2011

Ms. Andrea Matzke
Water Quality Division
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW 6th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Proposed Rulemaking – Revised Water Quality Standards and
Revised Water Quality Standards Implementation Policies –
Request for Extension of Comment Period

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Dear Ms Matzke:

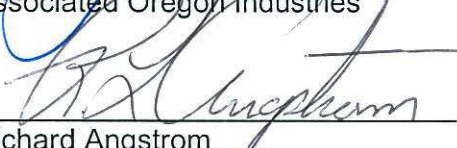
As noted in the Department's public announcement of January 6, 2011, the Department is proposing to revise Oregon's water quality standards and to adopt new and revised rules on implementing water quality standards through various water quality control programs, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and nonpoint source pollution programs.

These rules are the most far reaching water quality regulation changes proposed in decades. They may well be the most stringent in the nation and can be expected to have great, possibly unforeseen, impacts on this state for years to come. It is imperative that all parties have an ample and full opportunity to review, assess and, comment to the maximum extent possible.

Accordingly, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that the deadline for submittal of comments be extended from February 18, 2011 to a date no sooner than March 18, 2011.

Sincerely,


John Ledger
Associated Oregon Industries


Richard Angstrom
Oregon Concrete and Aggregate
Producers Association


Ray Wilkeson
Oregon Forest Industries Council


Mark Nelson
Oregon Metals Industries Council


Craig Smith
Northwest Food Processors Association


Katie Fast
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation


Jon Chandler
Oregon Home Builders Association


Terry Witt
Oregonians for Food and Shelter