



Conference of Local Health Officials

Julie Early Sifuentes
Principal Investigator/Program Manager
Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division
Environmental Health Assessment Program
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 640
Portland, OR 97232

December 13, 2016

RE: Support for the renewal of the Oregon Environmental Health Assessment Program

Dear Ms. Sifuentes,

On behalf of the Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO), I am writing in strong support of the application from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for funding through ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement. Local and state collaboration on environmental public health issues is critical to protect and improve community well-being by preventing disease, illness and injury and impacting social, economic and environmental factors fundamental to health.

Since 2001, ATSDR funding has allowed the OHA's Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) to support local communities in Oregon in reducing health risks associated with hazardous waste sites and industrial facility emissions.

EHAP's technical assistance has been instrumental in assessing and cleaning up brownfield sites across the state. Local health departments have worked with EHAP and other partners to ensure that these sites are redeveloped in a way that promotes community health and addresses local health priorities. EHAP has conducted assessments at 29 sites and provided technical assistance to 25 counties in the last 6 years. This year, EHAP is closely collaborating with local health jurisdictions representing 6 counties to address health concerns of thousands of residents.

In order to protect our communities' health, we strongly support the Oregon Environmental Health Assessment Program's APPLETREE application and look forward to continuing our collaboration into the future.

Sincerely,

Charlie Fautin RN, MPH
Chair, Conference of Local Health Officials