



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority

WSA

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December 10, 2002

Bill Van Vactor
Lane County Administrator
125 East 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Mr. Van Vactor:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) to request that you schedule a short work session for the County Commission as soon as practicable to consider amendments to Lane Code 9.120 et seq., "Restriction on use of solid fuel space heating devices." This ordinance, which has been in effect since November 1, 1991, provides for LRAPA to call a "burn ban" within the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan Urban Growth Boundary (the UGB) if necessary to protect air quality.

While LRAPA has never had to call such a ban, the agency has called a number of "yellow" or voluntary alerts this fall. In the past, these determinations have been made according to ambient air levels of the pollutant PM10 (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less). We are now subject to a new federal health-based standard for fine particulate (PM2.5), and are making the "red-yellow-green" determinations on this basis as well. The Lane Code should be amended to reflect this. LRAPA also suggests adding language to prohibit the burning of household garbage in woodstoves and fireplaces within the UGB, as these materials, when burned, may release a variety of air toxicants, as well as nuisance odors. We propose to limit the opacity of smoke from solid fuel devices, and to add a few definitions as well.

Please be advised that both the cities of Eugene and Springfield have adopted these amendments to their existing city ordinances. What LRAPA is suggesting is that the County bring its code into agreement with those of Eugene and Springfield. Again, this would only apply within the UGB.

LRAPA staff will contact you shortly with specific suggested amendment language. If you have any questions, please call Brian Jennison at 736-1056, Ext. 216. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Tannenbaum, LRAPA Board Chair

cc: County Commissioners