



Dr. Bud Pierce Responds to Gov. Kate Brown's "list" and "blitz inspections"

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I have cared for cancer patients for many years, value a safe environment and am concerned about the health of all Oregonians. At Governor Brown's direction, the [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) has created a list of 316 Oregon companies for [surprise "blitz inspections."](#) This is a reckless, shotgun approach to environmental regulation and public health. We should instead be working collaboratively with public health officials and businesses to ensure that the quality of our air is safe - all across the state.

These 316 Oregon companies have committed no crimes. Nor are they suspected of violating state or federal environmental regulations. They have permits to use metals in their manufacturing process, and they're already open to government inspection on notice. So why are these 316 Oregon businesses being singled out for special scrutiny and "blitz inspections"? Why are these law-abiding businesses being treated like they're guilty until proven innocent? Governor Brown is belatedly reacting to Oregon DEQ's abject failure in the Bullseye Glass case in Portland and is treating all the companies on "the list" like environmental criminals.

The vast majority of businesses are in full compliance with federal and state regulations. It is perfectly acceptable to hold businesses accountable to make sure that they are in compliance of the law, and those that are not need to be penalized to protect public health and safety. But Brown's sweeping after-the-fact operation makes a mockery of a consistent, fair and effective regulatory environment and turns the American notion of innocent until proven guilty on its head for Oregon businesses.

Businesses and government need to work together to quickly identify and establish solutions to limit environmental contamination to scientifically safe levels, which of course will include monitoring. The reality is that driving business out of Oregon – especially driving it overseas -- will lead to much greater global pollution, which will harm Oregon's citizens.

This governmental attitude toward business will only serve to further reduce per capita income of struggling Oregonians.

503-991-5238 • info@budpierce.com
www.budpierce.com

