



August 24, 2015

Governor Kate Brown
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, 160
Salem, Oregon 97301

Governor Brown,

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) applauds your work to promote a clean, healthy environment for all Oregonians.

As you know, ONA believes Oregon must reduce our use of coal and other pollutants at home and continue working to decrease the use of nonrenewable energy sources worldwide; including opposing projects that would increase coal transportation and use in Oregon.

The negative effects of coal and other pollutants go far beyond environmental concerns. Exposure to high concentrations of coal and coal particulate matter has been linked to multiple health problems, including heart attacks, strokes, asthma and pneumoconiosis. In addition, coal transportation leads to harmful emissions and can delay local emergency responders.

As frontline members of our health care system, nurses are concerned about the negative health and environmental impacts caused by coal and other pollutants and strongly recommend Oregon reduces our dependence on nonrenewable fuel sources and works to grow a clean energy economy that promotes local jobs and improves public and environmental health.

Together, we can set a new energy standard and improve Oregonians' health and our environment.

Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. King".

Susan E. King, MS, RN, CEN, FAAN
Executive Director
Oregon Nurses Association

cc: Brian Shipley, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Margi Hoffman, Energy Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Labor and Workforce Advisor, Office of the Governor