



**DEQ**

State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

## Legislative Concept Request 467: Heating Oil Tank Fees

### Background

DEQ's Heating Oil Tank Program reviews and processes tank decommissioning and other associated permits that can have time sensitive implications for real estate transitions. Current license fees were set in 1999 and certification fees were set in 2007 and only fund 3.2 positions at current levels of real estate activity.

The DEQ program is designed to operate with 4 staff positions providing technical assistance, outreach, site inspections, service provider audits and final report review. The DEQ Heating Oil Tank program is unable to provide adequate project oversight and auditing due to diminished staff levels increasing potential health risks from exposure to contamination. DEQ can only perform after-the-work desk reviews of about half of the projects and minimal assistance in response to questions.

### Proposed Solution

To address this issue, LC 467 would increase the fees to return program operations to four staff positions. Full program DEQ presence will prevent or detect more substandard work, allow DEQ to address property owner concerns about licensed service providers, and prevent delay for these time sensitive transactions.

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