EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO 97 - 16

OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all colors, national origins, cultures, income levels, age, gender and educational level, in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

WHEREAS: The Oregon Environmental Equity Citizen Advisory Committee Report delivered to Governor Barbara Roberts in October, 1994 included a number of recommendations for ways in which the State of Oregon can better address issues of environmental equity; and

WHEREAS: The Advisory Committee found that minority and low income communities generally lack adequate access to environmentally-related governmental processes and decision-making; and

WHEREAS: The primary recommendation made by the Advisory Committee was that an advisory board be created within the state’s natural resource agency structure to, “oversee the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations.”

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. A 12-member Environmental Justice Advisory Board shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at the Governor’s pleasure, to function from August 1997 to July 1999. The Board shall be comprised of citizens representing minority and low income communities, environmental interests, and the geographically diverse areas of Oregon.

2. All agency directors with authority in natural resource or environmental related areas, as designated by the Governor’s Natural Resource Office, will report to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board and the Governor annually on the results of their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Environmental Equity Task Force Report.

3. The report shall propose solutions for issues of environmental justice in Oregon. The report shall:
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a: Identify which recommendations made by the Oregon Environmental Equity Citizen Advisory Committee Report are relevant and are being addressed with each program or policy. Evaluate the success of the agency in incorporating the task force recommendations into the relevant program or policy;

b: Explain how the suggestions and input from minority and low income communities, expressed through the Environmental Justice Advisory Board, have been considered and/or integrated into the program or policy;

c: Supply information on agency plans to expand upon the 1994 Advisory Committee report recommendations to further the progress of eliminating environmental injustice in Oregon.

4. All designated agencies with authority in natural resource or environmental related areas shall cooperate with the Board, by providing information as needed, and appearing before the board or its committees, as requested.

5. The Board is to annually submit a report to the Governor beginning August 1, 1998, setting forth its view of agency progress in furthering recommendations embodied in the 1994 Advisory Committee Report and identifying any other environmental justice issues the Board believes need attention.

Done at Salem, Oregon this _ day of August, 1997.

/S/ John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

/S/ Phil Keisling  
SECRETARY OF STATE