



*Washington County Citizen Action Network (WC CAN) is a coalition of [grassroots advocates](#) (individuals and groups) dedicated to improving quality of life in Washington County by promoting healthy and sustainable communities, social and economic justice, and open and responsive government.*

### **Press Release on Intel and DEQ**

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### ***Investing in smart growth, a quality environment and the public health***

Residents of Washington County embrace the idea of sustainable growth that emphasizes a vibrant and healthy economy. A robust economy that creates family wage jobs must also support an environmentally safe economy. This requires "smart growth" which depends on "best practices" to create livable jobs and a livable environment.

When Oregon taxpayers subsidize corporations through programs like Business Oregon's "Strategic Investment Program," the Oregon taxpayer as an investor in Oregon's economy has a right to be assured that such investments not only create new jobs but that they are an investment consistent with Oregon's environmental ethic.

As former Governor Tom McCall said - "We must respect another truism - that unlimited and unregulated growth

leads inexorably to a lowered quality of life." (Address to 1973 Legislature)

In light of Intel's failure to report accurate emissions for 30 years in violation of EPA standards and DEQ's failure to hold Intel accountable [WC CAN](#) calls for the following actions to respond to this clear and present danger to the environment and public health.

Public awareness of Intel's emissions has awakened community concerns as a petition on this issue indicates - [\*\*Intel failed to report fluoride emissions for almost 30 years\*\*](#). WC CAN has also raised awareness about industrial composting sites, lead from general aviation fuel and growth which endangers prime farm land.

We want Governor Kitzhaber and the legislature to create a robust and transparent monitoring regime of Intel and other industrial and/or governmental polluters in Oregon.

DEQ and other state agencies such as the Oregon Health Authority must be staffed and funded to adequately assess sources and causes of pollution and their mitigation.

Specifically this means –

- The development of both short and long term plans to meet these goals to protect the public health;
- Regular and independent monitoring of industrial air and water pollution by state agencies tasked with this mission;
- A permitting process that mandates high standards consistent with best practices and the public interest;
- Reporting to the public on a regular basis of findings and remedies based on the principle of transparency;

The days of "business as usual" in Oregon must end. We don't have to choose between the false choices of economic

growth, job creation, a good environment and public health. Oregon can have smart growth and a high quality of life.

To get there as Tom McCall showed us is a matter of bi-partisan political will and leadership.

We will work with the Governor and the legislature to –

- Increase funding for DEQ and other state agencies so they can protect the environment and the public;
- and
- Develop regulations to make sure no more toxic emissions put Oregonians at risk

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