From: Tina DeBoer
To: Aislinn Johns; Tina DeBoer
Subject: Response to updating air quality permitting fees
Date: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:39:40 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

9/4/2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed increases in Idaho DEQ air-quality permitting fees, including increases in application, registration, processing, and annual fees.

My concern goes beyond the amount of any one particular fee. It is the cumulative effect of continually increasing government fees, taxes, regulatory requirements and compliance costs on Idaho's small, independently owned businesses.

My husband is a single-owner small business operator. Over the years, we have watched the cost and administrative burden of operating a small business continue to increase. It is not just one fee or one regulation—it is permits, fees, reporting requirements, insurance, equipment costs, taxes, compliance obligations and the significant amount of time required simply to keep up with them all.

Large corporations have accounting departments, compliance personnel, administrative staff, and attorneys to absorb these requirements. Small businesses do not. In a small operation, the owner is often the person doing the work, maintaining the equipment, completing the paperwork, paying the bills, and making sure every government requirement is met.

At some point, government must consider whether continually increasing fees and regulatory costs is unintentionally eliminating the very small businesses Idaho should be working to preserve. Small family-owned businesses are increasingly being placed at a disadvantage because they simply do not have the staffing, resources or economies of scale available to large corporations.

Another government fee may appear relatively small when considered individually. But to the business owner who is already absorbing increased costs from every direction, it is one more expense that comes directly out of the ability to earn a reasonable living, reinvest in the business, maintain equipment, employ people and remain economically viable.

I also do not believe increasing fees should automatically be the solution when a government agency faces increased operating costs. Before asking Idaho businesses to pay more, I believe agencies should first demonstrate that they have thoroughly examined their own expenditures, staffing, administrative processes and opportunities for greater efficiency.

Government does not always have a revenue problem; sometimes it has an expenditure problem. Businesses and families are expected to live within budgets, prioritize spending, and find efficiencies when costs increase. Government agencies should be expected to do the same before passing additional costs on to the people and businesses they regulate.

I recognize that DEQ has responsibilities it is required to fulfill and that those responsibilities have costs. However, regulated businesses should not automatically be expected to absorb higher fees each time agency costs increase. There must be a reasonable balance between funding government functions and maintaining an environment in which small businesses can continue to survive.

I respectfully ask DEQ to reconsider these proposed fee increases and instead look for ways to control expenditures, improve efficiency and reduce the regulatory and financial burden placed on Idaho's small businesses.

Idaho has long valued independent businesses, entrepreneurship and people willing to work hard to build something of their own. Our policies should encourage those businesses to remain here and succeed—not gradually create an environment where only large corporations have the resources necessary to comply and survive.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Tina DeBoer