

Equality State Policy Center

Please see attached letter



December 4, 2017

Dear Land Quality Advisory Board,

The Equality State Policy Center (ESPC) is a broad-based coalition of social justice, conservation, and labor groups in Wyoming working to improve the lives of all Wyoming's people through transparent government, fair elections, and thriving communities. We believe that at the heart of democracy is public participation and access.

ESPC has large concerns with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) proposed rule that will limit the public's access to important records disclosing how our state's environment is being protected. These records are public, meaning they belong to the people. Requiring a fee obstructs this right and creates a barrier for many.

We respectfully request that you comply with the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act's core mandate of open records and make all agency information available to the public without charging an access fee. We also suggest not charging fees to the public related to records that are a part of an agency permitting, enforcement, or rulemaking process, where the public needs to have access to the information to participate. In addition, we hope for an internal procedure to be developed that produces records faster and makes more information available to the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Phoebe Stoner
Executive Director