

11 April 2013

To: House Energy and Environment Committee

Fr: Mary Peveto

Re: HB 3492

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Hello. My name is Mary Peveto. I am a co-founder, and president, of Neighbors for Clean Air. I live in Portland.

Thank you, Chair Bailey, Vice-chairs Boone and Johnson, and all the committee members for this opportunity to speak in support of HB 3492. This bill would expand the existing Toxics Use Reduction Program to include air emissions.

I have had the honor to testify before many of you before, and indeed before this committee just a month ago. What I would like to speak to today, is to underscore the need for our state to address a real risk to the citizens of Oregon, and why I believe that HB3492 is a step in that direction. I assume that my story and passion for this issue is well understood. But I should mention that Neighbors for Clean Air was founded by myself and my neighbors after discovering that our neighborhood schools were ranked in the bottom 2% in the nation because of proximity to industrial air pollution. We soon learned that this was not a problem of one neighborhood and one polluter, that no school in Portland ranked better than the bottom thirty percent and that in fact 116 schools in Oregon rank in the bottom 10% in the nation, and this study only considers industrial air emissions.

From that same study of industrial pollution and schools, we learned that the facilities designated as Title V sources, especially those that emit the highest volumes of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPS) like those which would be subject to this new program, were significant contributors to the toxic problem of the worst ranking schools:

- Title V sources were significant contributors to toxic pollution at 96, or 83%, of these schools.
- Title V sources were the most significant contributor at 37, or 32%, of these schools.

When I began to unpack the problem of the risk of toxic air emissions, I was amazed at how little we knew. And in fact, how often concerns from communities were shuttled with the response that industry is not a significant contributor to air pollution in our state, and is estimated to be just 10% of the total. We soon learned that is a statewide pie. And due to that, it was nearly impossible to assess the actual emissions from individual facilities, to know what the facility could change to make improvements, and more alarming, what effect these toxic emissions have on the health of our community, especially our children.

Subsequent analysis of available data says that if you live close to a large source of industrial emissions, it can be can be as much as 50% of the toxic pollution in your air.

We need common sense approaches to address these real risks to public health. And I believe that HB3492 will give us the important building blocks to reduce unnecessary industrial air toxics in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration.