

Dear Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3492. I have been involved in NW Portland neighborhood groups trying to reduce air pollution in our neighborhood, city, and state, and I am very encouraged that a bill such as 3492 is before the committee. Please move this crucial bill out of committee and on to the floor for full consideration and a vote.

This is critical to protecting communities from the daily exposure to toxic air pollution that they are most likely unaware of. A very quick look at EPA's Environmental Justice Tool - [EJ View](#) - demonstrates why this need is so urgent. Looking at the Portland area alone, the minority make-up of the population of residents who live within 3 miles of Title V sources tends to be on average 10% greater than the percentage of minorities in the general population. When you look at a closer radius, within 1 mile of the facility, especially in North Portland, the percentage of minority residents jumps to as high as 40%. Some legislators still questioned why communities don't just negotiate directly with polluters to reduce emissions. The environmental justice analysis is just one factor as to why that is an unreasonable burden on citizens, who often lack the technical, legal and political expertise to successfully advance their concerns about toxic pollution in their neighborhoods.

Air Pollution is a serious threat in Oregon. Approximately **3.2 million Oregonians have an average cancer risk twice what the EPA has determined is "acceptable."** This problem is even worse in urban areas: Lane, Marion, Jackson, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties where 2.2 million Oregonians' risk is four times the standard.

We need real action from our leaders today. HB 3492 takes a necessary step to protect those most vulnerable: those who live next to the largest stationary sources of toxic air pollution. I strongly support this effort and urge the House Energy and Environment Committee to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,
Stacey Vallas

Member of Neighbors for Clean Air