

Chair Bailey

Dear Committee,

February 26, 2013

Before my husband Dennis Poklikuha and I bought our house on N. Wellesley Avenue 20 years ago, we asked the owner, the man who had grown up in the house, if there was any problem with toxic fumes in the neighborhood. He told us that there were "no problems with toxic fumes."

By the winter months of 1993 we realized we had been misinformed, when we started to smell extremely unpleasant industrial smells coming down our street. Since that time we have spent hours filing odor complaints, going door to door, going to Salem, meeting with neighbors and local industry personnel, and attending public hearings to address our serious health concerns regarding air quality at our home and in our neighborhood.

This past year volunteering my time with Neighbors for Clean Air, I was shocked to learn that Portland's air pollution is more serious than I imagined. According to the EPA's 2009 National Air Toxics Assessment, Oregon is the 3rd largest population in the nation at risk of excess cancer due to toxic air pollution!

My husband is a cancer survivor, but <sup>more than</sup> 3 other neighbors <sup>in neighborhood</sup> on our street <sup>have</sup> had cancer, <sup>skin, thyroid, brain</sup> and ~~have since passed on.~~ The cancers on our street have been ovarian, colon, breast and prostate. According to the National Cancer Institute, Multnomah County has higher rates of breast, lung, pancreas and brain cancers than both Oregon and the national average. 35 Portland area schools rank in the top 5% of all US schools with the most dangerous outdoor air quality in the country! Because this issue is so huge, we need state-wide legislation to reduce toxic emissions in industries all across Oregon!

As the population of Oregon increases, so do the emissions of cars and trucks. This added to the already high toxic emissions from industry creates a huge toxic soup in our air shed. We cannot let this continue in Oregon! We need well informed and aggressive legislation to clean up our air for now and for the children who will be breathing this air in the future!

It is against the law to go down to the Daimler Trucks assembly plant and pour a can of paint on their front steps, but they have been allowed to dump tons of toxins onto my property for decades with the backing of the DEQ and the EPA! Something is very wrong with this situation. The agencies that are buddying up with polluters need to do what they were created to do; Protect the environment and the people who live in it! We are very upset, and we will not go away.

How many people in this room would buy a house in neighborhood with known toxic fumes and stinky air? Please raise your hand! No one!? Yet people in Portland allow the pollution in neighborhoods to continue, while they tell the neighbors to move out. No kidding we were told by someone in the DEQ to move out of the neighborhood. This does not solve the problem and in fact in the worse case scenario, would cause the decline of property values!

If our laws dont need revision  
Then why do we still live in a neighborhood that  
has stinky air?

Other states have found ways to clean up their air. It is time for Oregon to do the same. We have the technology to clean up industry, so that workers don't lose their jobs and residential neighbors are pollution free! Industries have the resources, they make billions in in profit every year! We can do this, so please lets begin today!

Thank you so very much for all your efforts to help us improve air quality in Oregon!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Manning  
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