

Written testimony for HB 2336

Good Afternoon, my name is Stacey Schroeder and I live in N Portland on the bluff above Swan Island Industrial Park. I represent over 160 interested, concerned people in my neighborhood.

Since moving to N Portland just over 4 years ago, my neighborhood has organized in response to smelling toxics that are released about 3 blocks up wind from our homes, parks and lives. We have tried to work with Daimler trucks over the daily paint fumes that we smell. And we have tried to work with DEQ encouraging them to uphold Daimlers permit in which it states that Daimler cannot be a nuisance to the surrounding neighbors.

But with hundreds of odor complaints logged with DEQ in the past year, we are left wondering what else we can do. And it's not just nuisance that we are talking about its about breathing things like toluene, xylene, ethyl benzene, methyl isobutyl ketone, methanol and chromium compounds (all of which are nasty and harmful to breathe).

The 2008 study of industrial emissions by USA Today found North Portland schools ranked among the bottom 5% affected by industry NATIONWIDE. Meaning that my neighborhood has some of the worst air quality in the Nation. This does not affect just Portland. Of the 117 schools in Oregon that ranked in the worst 10% in the Nation, about half of those are not in Portland (9 in Eugene, 15 in Medford, 6 in Pendleton to name a few). DEQ's recent pollution modeling, which estimated pollutants from all sources, puts the health risk from air toxics in the census block next to Daimler's plant at roughly 100 times over health benchmarks, with industry and solvent pollution making up 16% of the risk. So far trying to work with Daimler and DEQ in the past 15 months has taken up a lot of time, but has not produced any changes. Daimler and other industry have been grandfathered in under our current outdated 1970's air quality standards without any impetus to change to old ways of manufacturing. Daimler has told us, "We could do better, but why should we – we are operating within our permit." We want our shared air to be as clean and healthy as possible.

This bill would help identify potential changes that a company could make and use more up to date technology when releasing toxics into our environment I urge you to support it.