

From: Caitlin Poliak
To: [SENRR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 871
Date: Sunday, April 09, 2017 10:00:16 PM

Hello,

My name is Caitlin Poliak and I am writing in support of SB 871, to regulate toxins in home demolitions.

Last fall, the house next door to mine in Portland was demolished. It was built in 1911 and tests showed presence of lead paint. This occurred right before City of Portland regulations went into place requiring deconstruction of older homes to minimize the dispersal of toxic lead dust.

I have a daughter who was 9 months old at the time and whose bedroom is only a few feet away from the house to be demolished. As I learned about how young people are especially vulnerable to the effect of lead poisoning, I joined with other neighbors to petition the developer to take adequate safeguards to prevent lead dust from spreading through the neighborhood. Although resistant, he eventually ended performing a partial deconstruction of the house - mainly because the situation was gaining a fair amount of negative media attention.

While we did end up successfully preventing this house from being demolished in a way that would have been harmful to the health of all living nearby, it took a tremendous amount of work by a group of neighbors to achieve this. There is a huge loophole in regulations around lead paint, and this needs to be addressed. I believe that SB 871 is a move towards protecting people from the harmful effects of lead poisoning via home demolitions.

Thank you,
Caitlin Poliak
Portland, Oregon