



Social change through music



BRAVO Youth Orchestras
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oregonbravo.org

March 4, 2021

Northwest Region Air Quality Permit Coordinator
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
700 NE Multnomah St, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Proposed Air Quality Permit, NW Metals

The board of BRAVO Youth Orchestras is opposed to the issuing of the air quality permit requested by NW Metals to operate a diesel-powered shredder at 9537 N. Columbia Blvd.

The site is near Sitton Grade School and George Middle School where BRAVO operates daily after-school intensive music programs when school is in session. Many of our students and their families live in the immediate area. The disastrous fire in March, 2018, at their site in the Cully neighborhood resulted in the destruction of several homes and a partial evacuation of the neighborhood. Based on NW Metals' long history of environmental violations, failure to comply with court orders to correct the violations, and their failure to pay fines which were issued by the state for violations, we have no faith that they take the safety of the surrounding neighborhood seriously.

The majority of students who attend Sitton and George Middle School are low-income people of color, who already face the challenges of income and health disparities. Placing their health at further risk by exposure to toxic waste further increases the burden of these inequities.

Please do not add to the challenges of our students and their families by approving this permit.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Reagan, MD, President
Cynthia Macleod, Secretary
Bill Scott, Treasurer
Veronica Acosta
Lorelei Juntunen
Joe Kye
Cameron Madill
Tamala Newsome
George Olsen, MD
Kate Thompson
Leslie Tuomi
Seth Truby, Executive Director *ex officio*

Members of the BRAVO Youth Orchestras Board of Directors

cc: Rep. Tina Kotek, Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives
Gov. Kate Brown
Mayor Ted Wheeler

BRAVO Youth Orchestras is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation registered in Oregon (Federal Tax ID # 46-2649265).