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On Behalf Of: Active Bethel Citizens
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3062

HB 3062, if passed, will establish a state-level version of the Eugene Public Health Industrial Development Standards. The bill was modeled after Eugene's Public Health Overlay Zone adopted for parts of industrial land in West Eugene in 2018.

West Eugene has the most pollution problems across the city, as most of the large polluters are located there. West Eugene has large sections of industrial land and freight rail lines adjacent to residential properties and located near schools and parks, including the industrial corridors along Highway 99 and Roosevelt Blvd.

Public Health Development Standards, HB 3062, is a model that can be used and expanded on to protect the public in other cities across the state where industrial lands are currently close to homes, schools, parks, or may be so designated in the future. The Public Health Development Standards would prohibit some of the worst polluters known to emit chemicals that cause cancer, and heart disease from operating in our cities.

I have lived in West Eugene and have seen first-hand how industry tries to sneak into residential areas with really nasty consequences to the humans living there. It is just one after another dangerous new idea coming at us on a monthly basis! We had NW Natural try to sneak a pilot project mixing hydrogen into its gas lines, a new stealth proposal to build fuel storage tanks on RR right of way on 99W, a "Rail to trucks" fuel trans-loading project in a tiny residential area that we are still fighting against, and EPA is currently cleaning up the Baxter creosote plant that polluted the whole area with Dioxins for almost 80 years. Meanwhile, all are facilitated by our local elected officials. Their "hands are tied" they tell us over and over.

Unfortunately, Railroads get a complete pass from city regulations and this bill will not protect us from that. The giant UP rail yard in the middle of Eugene is in process of handing over all responsibility for safety and maintenance to a third rate small line that has no budget and no professional staff, and a BAD reputation in its last location, Coos Bay. Thousands of rail cars are shuffled around daily, containing toxic and explosive chemicals and fuels. The odds are against us, when they do screw up!

The whole point of this bill is to give the public more information about what and how much of any dangerous chemicals/toxins will be allowed to move into residential areas, BEFORE it's a done deal!

I fully support HB 3062 in its strongest iteration. Let's untie the hands of local officials once and for all!