

RE: Testimony in support of HB 3062

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and the Members of the Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans.

For the record, my name is Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault. I am the West Eugene Community Organizer for Beyond Toxics, a Eugene-based environmental justice nonprofit. Beyond Toxics is proud to be part of a broad coalition eager to see this Legislature meaningfully address incompatible industrial zoning that has been, and will continue to harm vulnerable Oregon communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of HB 3062, legislation that is critical to achieving fairness and public health considerations into land use decision-making.

Currently, there are no meaningful protections for communities that have industrial facilities that are sited, or plan to build, near the places residents live, work, study, and play. There are no meaningful, proactive, off-site impact review processes that would address the potential harms that an industrial use would have on the surrounding community.

The City of Eugene is seeking to address this problem by developing Public Health Development Standards. Their action comes on the heels of the EPA declaring that an industrial site directly across the street from a dense working class neighborhood will become an EPA National Priority Superfund Site. Over 5 dozen home yards have been found to be contaminated with dioxin, some at levels where immediate soil removal was required last year.

Another nearby working class neighborhood has been targeted by two fossil fuel companies to build train-to-truck fuel transfer facilities and above and below fossil fuel storage tanks. These will be located mere yards from homes and family businesses. There are few, if any, tools to make good land use zoning decisions that include consideration of the health and safety of nearby neighborhoods. There are plenty of harms that are happening in real time in the Eugene-Springfield area, and these will only continue to grow with the proliferation of Oregon's industrial developments within city limits.

Emissions from industrial facilities can harm public health, including increasing rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, reproductive, neurological, and immune system disorders.¹ Children are at greater risk of developing illnesses, which leads to school absences. Industrial pollution also has serious effects on prenatal health, such as increased risk of cerebral palsy, low birth-weight, learning disabilities, and a greater chance of preterm birth.²

¹ National Institute of Environmental and Health Services: *Air Pollution and Your Health*. (2024) <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/air-pollution#:~:text=PM2.5%20from%20coal%20is,neurological%2C%20and%20immune%20system%20disorders.>

² *Id.*

The passage of this bill is a common sense solution to reduce these conflicts by requiring local governments or applicants to assess and mitigate potential health and safety impacts **before** these conflicts arise. This aligns with Oregon's own environmental justice commitments to create healthier, more resilient communities. This bill will create a clear, consistent, and proactive process that local governments may rely on to protect their communities. Beyond Toxics is proud to live in a City that is already addressing this, but we believe that every community across Oregon should be protected too.

Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault

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