

Submitter: Lily Burnett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3062

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans, thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3062. I am writing to urge you to vote in support of this bill.

My name is Lily Burnett and I am a working parent in the Russell neighborhood of Northeast Portland, a part of Portland that is lucky enough to be located in the Parkrose School District. Our small district of only 2,849 students allows our corner of East Portland to feel like a small town. We know our neighbors, we show up for community events, we check in on each other in times of need - that is why over 6,000 of us banded together to petition the City of Portland to rezone a site where they approved a 37-truck bay freight distribution center across the street from our high school and directly abutting our neighbors' homes. We formed the community-led Parkrose Argay Opportunity Coalition in opposition to this irresponsible and harmful siting of a high-traffic industrial use 50 feet from apartments, with no meaningful buffer and no offsite impact analysis.

The site, a former Kmart that had served the community by selling clothing, furniture, and home goods at a price most neighbors could afford, laid vacant for years before being leased to Prologis and burning down in 2023. My daughter was six weeks old when asbestos and ash rained down on our neighborhood from that fire; Portland Parks & Recreation closed all public parks in the area and the EPA sent out asbestos monitoring systems that whirred away while we sat panicking inside with our windows shut and air purifiers on full blast in the middle of July.

Today we have nearly 260,000 square feet of empty freight distribution warehouse space sitting in the middle of our neighborhood. Once it gets leased there will be hundreds of truck trips going to and from the site daily that share the same roads as our "safe routes to school" for Parkrose Middle and Parkrose High. The amount of diesel pollution that our students will inhale as a result of this use being sited across the street from our high school athletic fields should be illegal. Parkrose High School is the most racially diverse public high school in Oregon with 71% of students identifying as non-white. Of course this happened in Parkrose. Things like this always happen in communities like Parkrose. Please make sure this never happens again.

I hope you will support HB 3062 as a first step toward protecting our neighborhoods from harmful, life-threatening, incompatible uses and give community members a

voice in how our communities are shaped.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input.

Lily Burnett

Russell resident and working parent

Member of the Parkrose Argay Opportunity Coalition