From:	dcgarell@aol.com
To:	mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov
Cc:	HAMMOND Joni; lanimcgregor@bullseyeglass.com; irislitt@stanford.edu
Subject:	Creation of a Public/Private Partnership in the Matter of Management of Heavy Metals in Portland--An Alternative to Proposed Temporary Rules
Date:	Tuesday, March 15, 2016 00:56:01

An open letter to: Joni Hammond (Interim Director) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

I have read with interest the current issues raised by the finding of heavy metals in the air in the southeast part of Portland. And, a proposal to establish temporary standards to limit the use of Chromium III (CRIII) used in the production of green glass for artistic used is scheduled for tomorrow. My wife is a glass artist who uses products produced by Bullseye Glass Co.

And, I understand the following:

1) The owners of Bullseye Glass have been responsive to these concerns, have discontinued production of glass that may be associated with these products and are working to implement a permanent solution for all identified heavy metals used in the production of their glass products.

2) There are certain public health concerns that both the local and state authorities have identified, have sought to find a remedy for these findings and have acted responsibly in carrying out their duties;

3) That current federal standards do not cover this situation in smaller glass facilities;

4) There are differences of opinion about the possibility of production of CR VI when using CRIII ; and,

5) That a hearing is scheduled tomorrow to approve temporary standards in this regard.

I am writing to respectfully ask that the DEQ explore alternatives to implementation of these standards.

There is, it seems to me, a need to find a balanced remedy that protects both the public health and also protects the interests of these businesses who provide a resource for the art glass community.

I would ask that all interested parties form an ongoing working group to determine how best to manage this public health concern.

Overly protective regulations that threaten the viability of small glass manufacturers are not the answer, particularly when, as I understand it, they have agreed to fully cooperate with the proposed safeguards, have provided scientific information regarding the possibility of CR VI formation during the process; and have agreed that measures will be put in place to assure their compliance and to protect the public safety and environment.

Such a broad based group of stakeholders should be charged with reporting back to the City, State and Federal government their findings; examine available science regarding the use of CRIII in production of glass; provide transparency for the community at large for their findings and recommendations; and, see that a mechanism is put in place to assure creation of an effective monitoring system that reports any changes in levels of toxicity until a more permanent remedy is found.

Such a public-private partnership is consistent with Oregon's values and its concerns for the health and well being of all our members of the community. There are no bad guys or good guys here. Only people of good will who want to find a solution. Requiring standards to insure what might be a potential violation in the future is not consistent with these values and concerns. There is room for both preventive environmental controls in the absence of federal standards and for glass manufacturers to live and be responsible members of our business community.

We should expect no less.

I would ask that you consider an alternative to these temporary rules.

Respectfully,

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