From:	Margaret Hall
To:	SAXTON LYNNE; HAMMOND Joni; REP Nosse; REP VegaPederson; Gabriela.GOLDFARB@oregon.gov; mult.chair@multco.us; mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov; dan@portlandoregon.gov; Amanda@portlandoregon.gov; novick@portlandoregon.gov
Subject:	Special Meeting of the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission March 15 2016
Date:	Tuesday, March 15, 2016 03:10:10

Dear Regulators and Elected Representatives,

I am contacting you to voice my concerns over the proposed changes to the manufacture of glass in the Portland area of Oregon.

I am a fused glass artist in England and so I have an interest in the outcome of the meeting. I do not have any great scientific understanding of the production of glass but I have followed the development of the situation from the first publication of the news story concerning the possibility of air pollution which might be caused by the manufacture of glass. I fear for the people who rely totally on these companies for their own business.

I have read through the DEQ proposals as outlined in this agenda

http://www.oregon.gov/deq/EQC/Documents/2016/031516eqcAgenda.pdf

and notice the use of the words 'possibly', 'likely', 'more likely than not', 'potentially', which suggest to me that there has been no scientific proof that the manufacturing process actually does produce dangerously high levels of the materials described. Much of this seems to be pure speculation. In fact, it seems that the whole problem seems to have been blown up out of proportion. From my distant perspective it seems that the press has sown a seed for public concern by suggesting that there is a problem and then it has been taken up by others with some political purpose to add fuel to their own intentions.

I understand the concern over pollution but the wording on the agenda is very vague concerning the actual level of pollution and its effect on the locality. These companies have been producing glass for many years; have any of their employees been found to have suffered from these polllutants?

From what I know of one of the manufacturers they are a well liked and conscientious company who take seriously their duty to protect the environment as well as providing a good quality product. They have already reduced their output of certain colours of glass which has caused no little problem to many who use their products. People in the UK are concerned that they may be forced to go out of business as they rely on these glass manufacturers to provide them with the materials necessary for their livelihood.

I notice at the end of the agenda there is a section entitled 'Who are the affected parties?' I would like to add to that list the numerous people worldwide who rely on those glass producers for their livelihood. These companies produce materials that are used by glass artists all over the world, both in business and as a recreational activity. Any restriction on the production of their glass will have a far-reaching and, in many cases, a devastating effect.

Bearing all this in mind I hope that any decisions made at this meeting are based on sound, scientific evidence, and that those who make the decisions do so from a considered and unbiased standpoint,

Kind Regards,

Margaret Hall