From: Shawn Ingersoll
Subject: Portland/Milwaukie Emissions - Concerned Father and Resident
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Hello All ,

I write to you as a lifelong Oregonian, Father, Husband, gardener, bike commuter, and environmentalist. And as a human, with the only lungs, kidneys, heart and body that I'll ever get.

Over the last month, pollution issues in Portland and Milwaukie have become front and center, and the public is becoming aware of how big of a problem it is. From children schools located next to highly congested freeways, metal plating industry emissions, unregulated dirty diesel, dirty wood stoves, petroleum refinement, and glass makers and metal casting with heavy metal emissions into the neighborhoods that they moved into (to name a few). DEQ's lack of enforcement, sound science, precautionary based benchmarks, and prioritizing human health over profit has become quite apparent. DEQ has become an agency that caters to industry and allows for industry to help write the rules. Polluters have a say, yet those who must breathe them in do not nor are they notified.

The health effects of these hotspots put residents, workers, and developing children at great risk. The consequences of which may be lifelong and result in higher rates of disease, medical issues, and mortality rates. And while there may be no acute (immediate) danger to the average person, there are pregnant mothers, young children, and others who do not have the same resilience that the average person's body might have. Chronic exposure is hard to measure and the consequences of which may take decades to make an appearance.

The revelations of toxic hotspots in Portland and Milwaukie, as well as our overall terrible air quality need to be a priority. Holding those responsible for its bad shape should be the first step. Implementing up to date pollution control for all polluters in a phased approach within realistic timelines that the public can feel good about. Reducing dirty diesel, having a risk/health based regulation approach, incentivising clean wood burning stoves (especially for those that cannot afford them), keeping polluters responsible for the cost and not the public. I frequently smell diesel emissions as I bike to work from my child's daycare. It is disgusting to have to breathe in and is concerning in terms of my health.

The loophole Bullseye helped create, is a contributing factor that lead to this mess. No more loopholes. Our society has been a 'pollute first, ask questions later'. Instead, we need to ask questions, get answers, and then, only if it is deemed safe to health and the environment, should pollution into the air, water, and soil be allowed. Polluters should also bear the cost of

getting these answers, not taxpayers.

My request is that we apply the Precautionary Principle towards laws and regulation:

"When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action." - Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998

We need a governing body with whom can properly test, enforce, regulate, and permit emissions of any kind. I fully support Portland Metro forming its own agency, rules, and regulations that keep us and our children safe. The DEQ we currently have caters to polluters and rarely, if ever, enforces rules and regulation or tests what comes out of emitters pipes. I would like to see the public better kept in the loop in terms of who pollutes what. If a business is applying for a new permit or a renewal (should be annual if not already), the public should be notified within a certain distance (homeowners, businesses, schools etc. and at a distance of 1 mile radius for example). Permit costs should take this additional cost of notification into account. For polluters, there needs to be consistent and regular fence monitoring. We should all know what is coming out of their pipes and into our soil, water, and air. Not a lump cap where they are allowed to emit without disclosing the pollution material. It should be expensive to pollute in an effort to curb it. It needs to make more fiscal sense for a business to implement pollution control than to pollute unabated.

I fear special interests, including the glass manufacturers and artists, will push an agenda of regulation being a job/craft killer. I urge you to approach these issues with an open mind and to not let this tactic of fear prevent you from putting the health of your constituents before the pressure of the industry. The fear for them is lost profits and so they will use whatever ammunition they have, being jobs and glass color options, to distract. The public is not asking for regulations in an effort to put these places out of business, but rather to implement up to date pollution control that will end adverse health effects moving forward. The efforts of these industries will also try to downplay the pollution by drawing attention away from the drastically high air/moss samples, to those of soils samples. The soil samples that were taken in one of the wettest seasons of the year. They do not represent long term data, like the moss, but rather a moment in time. To truly ensure that the soil is not contaminated, more testing over longer periods of time must be done. Testing must be done at the pipe rather than 100s of yards away. But regardless, low levels in the soil, does not mean damage has not been done. Air is different then soil. Each have benchmarks and each benchmarks need to be met regardless.

My family currently lives 1.5 miles from Precision Castparts and McClure Industries. Both locations emit cancer causing emissions (news to us). Heavy metal hotspots have been detected near Precision, and you can smell the styreane in the air near McClure. The big white stacks that appear to have no filters. My son will be attending Seth Lewelling Elementary School next year which is very close to these locations. I cannot allow him to attend a school that is so close to these heavy polluters without them implementing pollution control. These businesses are in the middle of crowded residential areas. Residents here grow their own food, their children play in the yard, we go on walks, and the Springwater corridor runs through these businesses. The air outside fills our houses when we open them up in the warmer weather. This is the air we breathe as do our developing children, which whom are at greater risk to toxics.

My family was low income until I got a job at the Fred Meyer office next to Bullseye. We put our 2 year old son at the CCLC daycare. Never would I have imagined that I would be putting him in harm's way. I had concerns with semi-trucks in the area at that corner. Even filed a complaint with DEQ, and never heard back. As a working family we do not have the luxury of time and energy to continually follow up. We relied on DEQ to ensure the air our son breathed and soil he played in was safe. Our son had detectable levels of cadmium in his urine. While we were strangely assured his levels were normal for an adult in an urban area (he is 4 so not sure how they landed there), I can't help but believe these levels are influenced by the emissions that were allowed to go on nearby. Emissions we were never made aware of, despite DEQ knowing these levels were high. Tests for other heavy metals in our son are useless at this point, as arsenic and chromium leave the body in less than a week. So there is no way for us to feel reassured that he was not chronically exposed to these metals. We immediately pulled him from the daycare, and have moved him to a new one. Many families however are unable to make that change. Both in availability and cost. And that kind of change is so hard on a child. Our son has experienced more stress and acts out in ways he didn't prior to us moving him. We now have to help him adjust. The polluter's presence has turned everyone's life upside down with no real benefit, but instead we face health costs, stress, fear, and anger. There is no clear direction, no adequate notice for public input. We are being kept in the dark.

There are so many families that you will not hear from. Families working two to three jobs. Families that do not have the luxury to reach out to you. Please be aware that for every letter from a concerned citizen you receive, there are more likely hundreds more that do not have the luxury of time, education, time off from work, etc. to do so. So we speak for them all.

Portland, and Oregon as a whole, can become a place where clean business is the norm. Ignore the tactics of Industry that use threats of job loss and craft killing as their basis. The benefits dirty business bring are greatly outweighed by the health and economic costs associated with.

Thank you for you time,

Shawn Ingersoll