

# Central Northeast Neighbors

4415 NE 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue      Portland, Oregon 97212

[www.cnncoalition.org](http://www.cnncoalition.org)

June 7, 2017

Dear Honorable Governor Brown,

Central Northeast Neighbors Coalition is writing to you regarding the Cleaner Air Oregon regulation process. Air quality is of great concern to us and you have the power to help shape the future of our health and our communities. As concerned residents of northeast Portland, we want state leaders to enact and enforce strong regulations against all sources of air pollution, both point-source and mobile polluters.

Having an environment that our children, loved ones and neighbors can enjoy is something that you can help us achieve. It is crucial that we start implementing rules that will clean and protect the air that all of us share. These rules are desperately needed for all of Oregon but especially the Beaumont-Wilshire, Cully, Grant Park, Hollywood, Madison South, Rose City Park, Roseway, Sumner, and Sunderland neighborhoods. Our communities have and continue to be disproportionately impacted by heavy air pollution.

Solving this dilemma means that all sources of pollution must be targeted with absolutely no exceptions to any one company or individual. Our neighborhoods are home to many factories that emit high amounts of toxic metals into our atmosphere. The glass manufacturer, Owens-Brockway, located at 5850 NE 92nd Drive, Portland, Oregon 97220, emits 250 pounds of lead annually. In addition the Portland Airport (PDX) emits 200 pounds of lead annually. These numbers are too high, excessive, and dangerous.

We already know there is no safe level for lead's effects on human development and health. Portland Public Schools has shut off all of its drinking fountains due to detected lead levels in their pipes. The high levels of lead being pumped into our atmosphere must also be addressed, as well as the many other toxic metals and chemicals being emitted into our air.

Those involved with the Cleaner Air Oregon process have emphasized public health and our environment and communities as being significant aspects that will play a vital role when the new air quality regulations are drafted. We know the impacts that poor air quality has on health such as increasing the chances of developing a respiratory illness. To make matters worse toxic metals such as lead are known to cause learning deficits in children as well as cardiovascular complications especially in younger and elderly populations. The new rules must strictly limit and significantly reduce the amount of chemicals and toxic metals that polluters are dumping into our atmosphere on a daily basis if the process is to truly take public health into account.

Our neighborhoods are highly trafficked areas making this issue even more concerning. Current regulations are too lenient and allow heavy trucks without proper exhaust devices to spew diesel and Particulate Matter (PM). These conditions create unhealthy conditions from the high diesel emissions. To the east we are bordered by I-205, on the south side we have I-84, and to the north we have the Portland Airport (PDX). This makes our neighborhoods even more susceptible to air pollution. Therefore, to improve community-air quality, we insist on stricter limits for all forms of toxic air emissions. Finding a solution to clean our air and not just maintain the state it is currently in requires action and enforcements on the states part.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We ask that you help us by supporting and enacting strong rules and regulations when the Cleaner Air Oregon regulation comes to a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Fasching', is centered on the page.

Doug Fasching, President of the Board

CC:

DEQ Director Richard Whitman,  
Environmental Quality Commissioners Ed Armstrong,  
Representative Tina Kotek,  
Representative Barbara Smith-Warner,  
Representative Tawna Sanchez,  
Senator Michael Dembrow,  
Senator Lew Frederick,  
Port of Portland Director Bill Wyatt,  
Port of Portland Director Curtis Robinhold (successor in June)