

Portland Planning & Sustainability Commission

Re: Comprehensive Plan

November 4, 2014

My name is Sharon Genasci, and I am Testifying on behalf of NWDA. I am Chair of the NWDA Air Quality Committee.

The Air Quality Committee in NW Portland recognizes the need for adjustments to the Comprehensive Plan to protect the quality of Portland's air shed. Portland's air is a natural resource, like water or trees that must be preserved for the health of city residents. It is a resource that has been historically abused through industrial and other emissions.

The Comprehensive Plan offers an opportunity for the city and neighborhoods to work together to clean up Portland's air.

We suggest three strategies to meet this goal:

- Construction projects in Portland should utilize the clean diesel agreement between NWDA and John Residential, using tier 4 retrofits and oversight as a standard for all new construction. Adopting this standard will greatly reduce diesel particulate (a known carcinogen) from the air shed. Small and minority contractors should be given special consideration and assistance to meet the standard.
- Fill the gap between DEQ and the city by additions to the existing permit system, which would regulate businesses citywide, currently unregulated by DEQ. These are businesses that use stacks on their roofs or other means to emit pollution into the air.
- Regarding demolitions: city regulations that limit the release of asbestos and lead should be enforced on demolition sites. Currently, demolitions are occurring with no protection for neighboring residents.