

Date: 3/22/2021

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Donna L Cohen, MLIS, MEd, Portland, OR – Civics for Adults

Re: HB 3372

I live in St Johns not far from where a well-known violator of environmental laws has recently taken up a new commercial location. I attended some community meetings organized to address the issue and was very surprised to find out that not only are prior violations not taken into consideration for granting a permit but that a totality of the environmental impacts of this business – looking at its impacts along with those of existing businesses in the general location - would not be considered.

St Johns is already well-known for having very poor air quality as we abut a huge industrial area of Portland. To have another polluter enter the scene and not have DEQ consider the overall impact of pollution in my neighborhood is very disheartening.

But, apart from that, when a business has proven over and over again that it is not to be trusted as a safe neighbor that business should not have the privilege of continued operation.

I ask that this committee support HB 3372 with the Amendment. Please require a business to supply DEQ with all pertinent information by which to determine whether the business conducts itself in a responsible and safe manner, and please allow DEQ to refuse permitting of businesses found to have a history of not following a model of responsible activities.