

Dear Chairs and co-chairs, members of the committee,

My name is Stacy Nalley and I am a resident of Aumsville.

My husband and I relocated to Aumsville in November 2021, after three decades of living in McMinnville and commuting out of our community to work and provide for our family. We wanted to relocate to Salem and into a bigger home to accommodate our growing family. However, to accommodate the 7 people we housed, Salem proved to be challenging. We walked 50 homes, and put an offer on two of those, which were not accepted. The tax rates in Salem proved to be a deal breaker for homes the size we needed keeping it out of our budget, so instead of relocating to the city in which we worked, we looked to smaller communities outside of town. We found a lovely home in Aumsville and were overjoyed when our offer was accepted.

The following year we learned of the problem that Aumsville had with the water treatment facility, the looming EPA fines, and the imminent price tag to fix the problem. We also learned the city staff, with their limited resources, had only been able to garner \$4.5M of grants in 4 years to put towards the bill. The remaining \$20+M would have to be borne by the residents of a city with 700 households, almost 200 of which are under the federal poverty limit and many on fixed incomes or young families working paycheck to paycheck.

My husband and I are both fully employed people. We have great benefits and can take care of our family. If needed, we could pay a water bill that tripled while we were fully working, it would just take away from other things that we budget for. Our neighbors are retired to the right of us, and a single part-time working mom who takes care of her disabled child on the left. With fixed incomes and other struggles our neighbors might not be able to bear the brunt of a tripled water bill. And I can tell you that when we retire, we would be analyzing our ability to continue to live and prosper in our community based economic livability. My husband had been in his previous home for 32 years before we moved to Aumsville. It was a huge decision to leave that home. We thought we had found a community that would provide decades of living – we could finish raising our kids, see our grandkids grow, and be a part of a small community that reminded of us the older days in the community that we just left. Please consider the livability of Aumsville, and help that small town continue to be a wonderful place for families to live their version of the American dream.

Chairs, co-chairs and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to read my story today.

Regards,

Stacy Nalley