

Abby Huntoon
So. Portland, ME

Senator Brenner and Representative Tucker:
My name is Abby Huntoon and I live in So. Portland, ME.
I am writing in support of LD1532

I have been closely following the issues around the above ground oil storage tanks in our state and especially in So. Portland. There are definitely noxious fumes that are present when one drives through certain areas of the city. In the past, I know So. Portland has been very friendly to business, especially the oil industry. Times have changed; we are facing climate change, ever more toxins in our air from being the tailpipe of the nation and what seems to be more activity at certain of the oil storage facilities. The petroleum industry created emission formulas that seem to change when convenient and with no data made available by them to prove that these formulas have any validity. This is not acceptable. Many in our community are suffering health issues and we as citizens have no idea what is being emitted into our air and lungs.

The long term effects on our children going to school next to these tanks is something we all should be concerned about. Asthma and child cancer rates are very high in Maine. As adults, how can we justify not even knowing what is going into our children's lungs? How can we hope to help with potential future health problems when we have no idea what might have caused a problem?

IS IT LEGAL FOR NO ONE -
NOT EVEN THE MAINE DEP TO KNOW WHAT IS BEING EMITTED INTO OUR AIR?

It is imperative, at the very least, that the six companies in So. Portland and any other such companies in Maine should be required by law to install fence line monitoring in order that the CDC as well as the surrounding community know what and how much is being emitted. The CDC should then determine if the data shows chemicals, such as benzene, are present in amounts that directly increase the cancer risk to the public.

If the data shows unsafe amounts being released, then either the permitted limits need to be lowered or the companies should be forced to install control equipment. That is the cost of doing business today to keep our community and the earth safe for the future.

I am advocating for:

- Fence line monitoring for all above ground oil storage tanks in Maine.
- Full disclosure to the city, the citizens and the CDC of all data from fence line monitoring and a record of what chemicals and additives are present in the tanks
- Require the installation of control devices or legislate lower permitted amounts of VOC's and HAP's if current allowable amounts are determined to put the public's health at risk
- EPA's HEM3, human exposure model, to be used to determine the cancer risk for the various distances citizens reside from the tanks
- A shorter period between reviews and permitting
- Penalties for each day a company exceeds a permit and enforcement that the penalties have to be paid.