

REBECCA LEATHE  
SOUTH PORTLAND

Hello Senator Brenner and Representative Tucker. My name is Rebecca Leathe, and I am a resident of South Portland. I am writing today in support of LD 1532. As a resident, nurse, and mother of two small children, I am very concerned about the health effects of poor air quality from tank emissions in South Portland. At our house we occasionally smell fumes, and the smell is stronger when we are driving through areas of South Portland that are close to the tanks. It is strong enough that I avoid outdoor activities in those areas, including the greenbelt, and I am very concerned about sending my children to schools near the tanks and what breathing the emissions every day will do to their health in both the short and long term. I urge you to consider the impacts of these emissions on the citizens of South Portland, especially our most vulnerable populations.

What is hopeful is that it is possible to curb these emissions and prevent further health damage from occurring. This could be achieved by requiring health based limits for emissions for HAPs and VOCs, continuous fence-line air quality monitoring by a third party of the air adjacent to the tanks, and implementing emissions control technology. These are all enforceable actions that could have a huge impact on our community's health and future.