

Caitlin Marshall
Portland

To Chair Senator Brenner, Chair Representative Tucker, and the members of the ENR committee,

My name is Caitlin Marshall, and I'm a resident of Portland, Maine. I support the passage of LD 1532 to protect our air quality.

While I don't live in South Portland, right next to the tanks, I do live in nearby Portland. My son has asthma, and has to take daily medication to control it. Air pollution, exactly what the tanks in South Portland currently emit, worsens his asthma.

I don't blame the tank companies for my son's medical condition. I do, however, think they ought to be fully responsible for the pollution they're putting out into the air. Currently, the law allows them to emit pollutants that exacerbate disease. It also allows them to be the only ones monitoring their own levels of pollution, a situation that is bound to result in under-reporting. There is no incentive to be truthful.

LD 1532 would fix that. A health-based permit ensures the pollution levels are actually at or below safe levels, and continuous fence line monitoring ensures independent verification of those levels.

If they want the right to be here, if they want to use our shared resources, they are must do their part to be sure they're being good neighbors. Like I tell my kids:

The mess you make is the mess you clean up.