

Thanks to State Representative Victoria Morales for sponsoring this bill.

Thank you Senator Stacy Brenner and Representative Ralph Tucker for the opportunity to speak today.

I am Kelly Roberts, and I'm here to testify as a resident of South Portland Maine.

**I speak today in support of LD 1532:**

“An Act to Protect Maine’s Air Quality by strengthening requirements for air emissions licensing (Tank Emissions).

**I urge the Environment & Natural Resources Committee to support it too.**

This bill would require **specific and ongoing testing** for the 120 oil and fuel storage tanks around Portland Harbor that emit 600 tons of toxic chemicals/per year. It is critical to have transparent testing done and not allow the petroleum polluters to dictate the process. Every community needs to be notified about the dangers present to their community.

Inside Climate News found that tanks holding asphalt and No.6 fuel oil like the ones in SoPo, pose very serious health risks to us including cancers, respiratory problems and organ damage.

There are still unanswered questions about tank emissions and the health risks—**which is unacceptable.**

I grew up in SoPo, class of '93 and left Maine for college. I moved to New York City after 9/11 and worked there for the past 17 years. I always came home to visit on major holidays and vacations. My mom who is in her late 70's, has lived in SoPo almost her whole life, the same as my grandparents did.

As a Mainer, I have always been passionate about protecting the environment. Over the past years my mom has shared articles from the local papers covering the toxic emissions issues and I attend city council meetings when I can.

I remember visiting SoPo on past Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks and waking up a couple of times, feeling sick to my stomach like I had food poisoning – to the point where I didn't feel up to joining family gatherings. **And I know I am not the only one here who has complained of headaches, dizziness, burning throat and eyes and nausea.**

Since the pandemic, I have found myself back in Maine with my family, working remote since quarantining. I have woken up feeling sick to my stomach again, windows closed and yet the house still has a strong oil smell lingering into the early morning. My mom has felt sick too. This is unacceptable. It is a clear connection again that the toxic petroleum emissions are poisoning our air and making us sick. I worry constantly about how many toxins we are breathing in the day and when we are asleep. **Some chemicals are detectable to our senses but a lot are not.**

**We need to know what is in our air!** We must require accurate testing of ALL the chemicals, VOC's/hazardous air pollutants being put into our air.

The oil industry must be held accountable, testing is #1 and monitoring the air to protect our health now and for all the children attending schools surrounded by these toxic oil tank emitters.

I would love to move back to Maine permanently to be near my family **but I have huge concerns about the air quality here.**

In closing, thank you for listening

I urge the committee to please support LD1532:

“An Act to Protect Maine’s Air Quality by strengthening requirements for air emissions licensing (Tank Emissions).”

**It is a first step to ensure Mainers right to clean air.**