

**Testimony by
Scott Morelli, City Manager, City of South Portland
In Support of LD 71**

Dear Chairpersons Stacy Brenner and Lori Gramlich and esteemed members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am here on behalf of the City of South Portland to urge your support of LD 71, which would fast track the implementation of substantive changes to Chapter 171 of the Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Specifically, these changes would require marine tank facilities to install so-called “fence-line” air quality monitors to help regulators and our community have a more definitive understanding of the types and quantities of emissions being released into the air we breathe.

Currently, we are unable to say whether the air in South Portland is or is not safe to breathe. Some initial data from air monitoring stations placed across our city suggest the air is in fact relatively safe, with the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) measured resulting in only one additional cancer in the population over a 70-year period, according to the Maine Center for Disease Control. This gives some comfort, but these monitoring stations were not placed at the property lines of the tank facilities, nor were they placed in residential neighborhoods abutting these tanks. Therefore, we do not know the localized emissions from the facilities or the associated health risks in those neighborhoods.

I understand the chair of the Board of Environmental Protection is concerned that fence-line monitoring will be inconclusive because there are sources of VOCs other than the tank farms, and that the emissions measured may not be able to be attributed to a specific facility due to wind direction and their close proximity to one another. While I appreciate this nuance, such a possibility is not guaranteed, and it should not be the reason that no monitoring units are installed. Best case, we can ascertain the emissions from each operator. Worst case, we have a better understanding of the hundreds of tons of combined VOC emissions from various tank farm facilities and other sources. Make no mistake, this data will be vitally important to either help assure the public that our air is safe to breathe, or to take mitigating action to ensure that it is.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Scott Morelli
City of South Portland
LD 71

Signed up last week but had not yet crafted my testimony. Now attached.