

Amortization Testimony

Dear Chair Dziedzic and members of the committee,

My name is Mateo Frumholtz and today I am writing to you in favor of the Amortization bill: SF 4316.

I am a PhD student at the University of Minnesota studying health policy.

My research in health policy revolves around ever-increasing healthcare spending, a challenge I know you are all aware of. I'm here today to tell you that one of the best things we can do to reduce our healthcare spending is to improve the health of our communities.

There is extensive research documenting just how unhealthy it is for people to live near environmental polluters such as industrial facilities and highways. The people who live near and alongside these polluters are predominantly people who are marginalized, racialized, and disenfranchised from the decision centers that allow these entities to pollute their neighborhoods in the first place. This bill helps start the process to redress these concerns.

For many neighborhood and community organizations, city-level policies are the most accessible. Although city-level policies can sometimes be limiting, in this instance, they are the best option to help prevent chronic exposure to industrial pollution in residential neighborhoods. This bill gives cities the tools they need to help protect their residents.

I strongly urge you to support SF4316. Please help us keep ourselves safe and healthy from harmful polluters in our neighborhoods. Improving our health helps everyone.

Thank you,
Mateo Frumholtz