

Beth Johnston

From: Luke Gannon <lukecgannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Beth Johnston
Cc: Chris Meyer; Sen. Omar Fateh
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony in Support of SF 4316

Hello,

Below is my written testimony in support of SF 4316. Thank you!

My name is Luke Gannon and I am a resident of the East Phillips neighborhood in South Minneapolis. Many days of the year I step outside of my home and smell an overwhelming metallic smell. I have returned home after a week-long work trip to my kitchen table covered in a thin layer of black soot. My cough pales in comparison to many of my neighbors who have life-long detrimental health effects like asthma, heart failure, and lung irregularities due to the cumulative effects of pollution in our neighborhood.

East Phillips is one of the most polluted neighborhoods in the state of Minnesota. Three highways surround the neighborhood; a garbage transfer station is within the neighborhood's bounds; and an industrial polluter—Smith Foundry which spews toxic chemicals into the air year-round. But, it doesn't have to be this way. The State of Minnesota must give cities the power to phase out polluting facilities, like Smith Foundry, that do not belong in residential neighborhoods. Under current Minnesota statutes, a city can only amortize adult-only businesses.

Why is it that cities have the power to phase out adult-only bookstores but not a facility that's making people sick?

SF 4316 adds an exception so cities can phase out chronic pollution from areas where updated zoning laws prohibit the use.

People need a clean and healthy environment to raise their children, to work, and to grow old. In order to do this, we cannot have polluting facilities in residential neighborhoods. I urge you to support SF 4316 to make Minnesota a healthier place for everyone.