

Written testimony for HF 4231

March 13, 2024

Dear Rep. Klevorn and the State and Local Government Finance and Policy,

I'm writing to support HF 4231, the amortization bill. I live on the edge of Minneapolis's Southside Green Zone, about three quarters of a mile downwind of Smith Foundry, which is now known to have been violating the Clean Air Act.

My daughter will turn 2 years old in three weeks. She has been breathing in Smith's air since she was conceived.

Smith has been operating under its 1992 permit for more than 30 years, using technology that an expert has described to me as "going back 100 years in air pollution control." It would never be allowed to operate if it were opening today -- and certainly not in a densely populated environmental justice neighborhood. Yet under current state law, no decision that Minneapolis could ever make about its zoning would be allowed to change Smith's ability to operate in its current location. The fact that we know so, so much more about air pollution's consequences (especially for kids!) today than we did thirty years ago is absolutely irrelevant -- a state of affairs that makes no sense.

Our cities and towns should be able to use new information as we learn it, and protect kids when we realize we have fallen short. I urge you to support HF 4231.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Wrigley-Field
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