

My name is Katie Nordenson, and I am writing in support of HF 4231. I live in Minneapolis and my 2-year-old son Henry attends Circulo de Amigos daycare in East Phillips, right across the street from Smith Foundry. He loves his school so much, and the teachers and staff there are incredible and have created an environment where kids can truly grow and thrive--including lots of time outdoors. However, because facilities like Smith Foundry and Bituminous Roadways are allowed to remain in residential neighborhoods, the school has to deal with air pollution, bad smells, and concerns about the safety of letting kids play. They have done everything within their power to monitor and advocate, but it's time for stronger action.

Access to quality childcare is already a HUGE challenge for so many MN families, and this adds an unnecessary layer of stress. Are we supposed to choose between a school Henry loves and his respiratory health? What about all the children, adults, and elders who live near the foundry? It is hard to imagine a situation like this being allowed in Edina or Minnetonka or other areas of the state, which makes it all the more clear that something has to change.

Please do the right thing and vote in favor of HF 4231 and help support healthy communities for ALL Minnesotans.

Thank you for the opportunity to share!